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Rajneesh Goel

Rajneesh Goel is next Chief Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rajneesh Goel, IAS officer of the 1986 batch, has been appointed as the next Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

The State government on Tuesday issued an order appointing Mr. Goel, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, as the Chief Secretary. He will take charge from outgoing Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma, who is retiring from service on superannuation, on November 30.

Mr. Goel will be the 40th Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

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First visuals of 41 persons trapped in tunnel emerge

Rescue teams identify the workers using an endoscopic camera sent in through the six-inch pipe which was drilled through the debris; horizontal drilling to create a safe passage resumes

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Clinging on to hope: Visuals of workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, released by rescuers on Tuesday. PTI

The first visuals of the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand since November 12 emerged on Tuesday after an endoscopic camera was sent in through the six-inch pipe which was drilled through the debris blocking the tunnel on Monday.

In a video released by the rescue agencies, the workers can be seen standing in a line and identifying themselves while rescue workers issue instructions to them. The trapped men are seen placing their ears on the edge of the pipe to hear what is being told by the rescuers.

"*Aap theek ho*? (Are you fine?)," a rescue team member asks, to which the workers reply in the affirmative. The workers are then told to show themselves in the camera and smile. The rescue teams identified all the trapped workers from the visuals and also shared the same with their family members.

Fruits and other essentials were later sent through the pipe. According to sources, the pipe was temporarily blocked on Tuesday afternoon when the agencies tried to send cooked food. It was cleared in the evening.

The Hindu could not contact Uttarkashi District Magistrate Abhishek Ruhela for comments.

Drilling resumes

Meanwhile, horizontal drilling through the debris with a U.S.-made auger machine resumed on Tuesday. The operation was suspended on Friday after the machine encountered hard material. The rescue teams plan to insert a 900-mm pipe through the rubble to create an escape passage for the workers.

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Netanyahu, Hamas chief hint at deal on Gaza truce

Reuters
GAZA/JERUSALEM

Anxious wait: Police officers stand guard as families of hostages held by Hamas wait to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

The leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said on Tuesday that a truce agreement with Israel was close, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped for good news soon about hostages, the most optimistic signals so far of a deal to pause fighting and free captives.

Hamas officials were "close to reaching a truce agreement" with Israel, and the group has delivered its response to Qatari mediators, Mr. Haniyeh said in a statement.

Mr. Netanyahu, according to remarks released by the Israeli Prime Minister's office, said: "We are making progress. I don't think it's worth saying too much, not at even this moment, but I hope there will be good news soon."

The long-awaited agreement, which would see the first truce of the war and the first mass release of those held by both sides, was in its "final stages" and "closer than it has ever been", said a source. This was echoed by a U.S. official who said it was the "closest we have been" to a hostage deal.

The deal, as described by the first source, envisages the release of around 50 civilian hostages by Hamas and of female and minor-aged Palestinian detainees from Israeli custody, as well as a multi-day pause in fighting.

A Hamas official told Al Jazeera TV that negotiations were centred on how long the truce would last, arrangements for delivery of aid into Gaza and details of the exchange of captives. Both sides would free women and children, and details would be announced by Qatar, which is mediating in the negotiations, said the official, Issat el Reshiq.

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Anemia Mukt Bharat
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of India
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
A bold step by
the State Government for an
'Anemia Muktha Karnataka'
Anemia
Muktha Poushtika
Karnataka
Date: 22 11 . 2023
Time: 11 AM
Venue: Jnana Jyoti Auditorium
Central College, Gandhinagar, Bangalore
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Since India has a huge diversity of cultures and traditions, Article 29 of the Constitution of India gives the right to every citizen to maintain their culture and its related avenues.
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Mareeswaran Sakthivel, living the dream for two

'One of the main reasons for me getting into the sport is the fact that my dad was a hockey player. He continued playing until the district level but was unable to continue beyond that point as he had to start working to support the family. My biggest aim is to be a part of the Indian Olympic team, and the first step of that is this [Senior Nationals]'

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nigamanth P
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu kicked off its campaign at the 13th Senior National Hockey Championship at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here with a staggering 15-1 win over Assam. Forward Mareeswaran Sakthivel, though, had a relatively quiet game as he played operated on the flanks in the system designed by coach Charles Dixon.

The 24-year-old, however, bounced back in the subsequent match to help Tamil Nadu register a massive 13-1 victory over Himachal on Sunday, eventually being named player of the match for his crucial hattrick.

"Every match, I strive to give my best. And instead of me evaluating my performances, I feel it's better for a third person to do that, and this player of the match award is an acknowledgement that I'm doing the best I can," Mareeswaran said.

Mareeswaran made his India debut during the Men's Asia Cup held in Jakarta in May last year. His solitary goal in the tournament came in the gruelling 4-4 draw against eventual champion South Korea. India won bronze after a 1-0 win over Japan in the third-place classification match.

The forward believes that the Senior Nationals plays an important role in the Indian hockey ecosystem. "This is the number one tournament in India because we get selected for national camps based on our performances here. The officials select 60 players from here and shortlist them for the national core group, which consists of 33 players," he said. Coincidentally, after a gap of over 5 years, more than 30 players from the national pool, including senior team regulars like captain Harmanpreet Singh and TN's own Selvam Karthi are in the thick of things in the ongoing edition.

The Senior Nationals is Chennai's third hockey event in the span of six months, having played host to the Asian Champions Trophy, where the Indian side won gold, and the Murugappa All-India invitation hockey tournament after. This, Mareeswaran thinks, is a step in the right direction for the state.

"Tamil Nadu hosting tournaments regularly will help the junior players a lot. It helps the players to get a practical knowledge of how the game works, even if they aren't in the playing 11," he said.

"A lot of Indian team members and players who participate in department tournaments play here. Watching them play will help the local players here extensively," he added.

With national coach Craig Fulton in attendance, this tournament is almost an audition, where Mareeswaran and other budding talents have an opportunity to showcase their skills. The youngster, though, is unfazed.

"We have to treat this like every other tournament. If we do that, it subdues the pressure surrounding us and will help us concentrate on the game more than the external factors. And that will eventually create a positive impact on our performances," he said.

Mareeswaran's family was still struggling to make ends meet when he made his India debut. His appointment with the Income Tax Department after

finishing a Bachelors Degree in commerce have changed the things for the good.

Hockey runs in the striker's family. Mareeswaran's father, Sakthivel, was also a hockey player but had to look away from the game due to monetary constraints.

"My father was one of the main reasons I got into hockey. He played until the district level but was unable to continue as he had to start working to support the family. He sees my achievements as his own, and that makes me happy. That's the least I can do for the support that my parents have given," a jubilant Mareeswaran said.

His hometown, Kovilpatti, has a long-standing love affair with hockey.

"Back in Kovilpatti, if you take a stroll around my area in the morning, you will see a lot of youngsters playing hockey. If you visit any playground, you'll be able to see people playing hockey more than any other sport. Our district has seen the game for decades, and it has been imbibed in the minds of kids that hockey is a part life," he narrated. His growth and that of Karthi, who has spent years training in the industrial city, bear testimony to its passion for the sport.

Mareeswaran's ultimate dream is to represent India in the Olympics. "My biggest aim is to be a part of the Indian Olympic team, and for that, the first step is this tournament. To be a part of the 33-member core group, I must perform well here, and from that, 18 players will be selected for the 2024 Paris Olympics."

Tamil Nadu, which emerged as the runner-up in the last edition after a 1-3 loss to Haryana in the final, is through to the quarterfinal. The team is currently at the top of its pool with two consecutive wins and a 26-goal difference. Mareeswaran hopes he can help his team cross the final hurdle this time.

THE GIST

- After having to play second fiddle and operate on the flanks in TN's campaign opener against Assam Hockey, Mareeswaran bounced back and put on a show in the subsequent match to help Tamil Nadu register a massive victory against Hockey Himachal
- He was named the player of the match for his hat-trick
- Mareeswaran believes that a tournament such as the Senior Nationals is imperative, even though he has progressed through the ranks and represented his country

K.R. DEEPAK

Great decision to bowl first, the wicket got better as the game went on: Head

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

When the World Cup started last month, there was uncertainty over Travis Head's availability for the tournament. Out of action for the first couple of weeks due to a hand injury, it was a race against time for the Australian opener to return to the groove.

Back then, not many would have imagined Head would guide the Aussies to their record-extending sixth ODI World Cup title, but the 29-year-old hammered a classy 137 against India – his second century of the tournament – at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday to emerge as the hero.

Chasing a low total, Australia was reeling at 47 for three at one stage and needed an alliance to come out

> The way Mitch (Marsh) took the game and set the tone, that was the energy we wanted

of the woods, and that's when Head forged a match-winning partnership with Marnus Labuschagne to make it an "amazing day" for himself and the team.

His efforts earned him the Player-of-the-Match award, a feat previously held by Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist.

"It's a lot better than seeing the World Cup on the couch at home (during injury). I was a little bit nervous, but Marnus played exceptionally well and soaked all the pressure," Head told the host broadcaster.

After losing David Warner early on, Head started rebuilding with Mitchell Marsh before Jasprit Bumrah sent the latter packing. But according to Head, Marsh did set the tone.

"The way Mitch (Marsh) took the game and set the tone, that was the energy we wanted. It was a great decision to bowl first and the wicket got better as the game went on. It paid dividends and it was nice to play a role," he said.

This has been a year to remember for Head. While his catch of India captain Rohit Sharma turned out to be the game-changing moment, he became the seventh batter to smash a hundred in a World Cup final. Earlier this year, he ran away with the Test mace, scoring 163 at The Oval. "It feels nice to contribute to the team," he added.

INBRIEF

CMR University celebrates Founder's Day

CMR University celebrated its 32nd Founder's Day on November 19. The university awarded 167 scholarships, 17 sports scholarships, and 17 leadership awards. K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (retd), chairman, CMR University and CMR Group of Institutions and former Rajya Sabha Member, in his speech said that they have been working to fulfil and realise the visions and goals that have been entrusted to them by founder Chikka Muniyappa Reddy.

Rural immersion programme organised for MBA students

Kristu Jayanti School of Management conducted a rural immersion programme an experiential learning pedagogy for first-year MBA students of batch 2023-25 as part of MBA curriculum on November 10 and 11. A release said the programme consisted of visiting schools in villages namely Kanaswadi, Kannamangala, Purushanahalli, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Rural District as part of SDG 1 UN Academic Impact Hub.

KIOCL observes vigilance awareness week

KIOCL Ltd. observed vigilance awareness week on the theme 'Say no to Corruption: Commit to the Nation' at its corporate offices in Bengaluru and Mangaluru from October 30 to November 5. It also organised a preventive vigilance campaign from August 16 to November 15 at its corporate office in Bengaluru. Arvind Jadhav, former Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, chief guest at the valedictory programme held on November 18, was felicitated by T. Saminathan, chairman & MD of KIOCL Ltd.

Four separate investigations will be taken up in Hope Farm electrocution case: George

'Findings will help in preventing such accidents and initiating action against those responsible'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four separate investigations would be taken up to determine the cause of the electrocution of Soundarya and her nine-month-old baby at Hope Farm near Kadugodi in Bengaluru, said Energy Minister K. J. George.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, he said that the findings from the investigations would be used to prevent such accidents, while also using it to initiate action against those responsible for the tragic incident in which the woman-child were killed after stepping on a snapped live wire.

"The first would be the internal investigation of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company. The second would be by the Police Department to whom we have given a free hand in the case," Mr. George said.

"The third investigation would be conducted by the Electrical Inspectorate. In order to have an impartial and independent probe, we have constituted a committee headed by a retired chief electrical inspector and comprising a director from the Central Power Research Institute, and a member of the inspectorate."

Energy Minister K.J. George addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While five Bescom officials have been suspended, Mr. George said: "This is a peculiar situation and thus demands thorough investigation as to why the wire did not find earthing. After these reports come in, we will act accordingly, not just in this case, but implement the recommendations across Karnataka."

T.N. Appacchu, Chief Electrical Inspectorate, Karnataka, said that it looked like the cement used for interlocking in the footpath and the presence of M-sand below prevented the wire from finding earthing.

Mahantesh Bilagi, MD, Bescom, said that a meeting will be chaired with the Chief Civic commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to discuss this issue. "There are paver blocks across the city. Hence, to prevent such accidents we have to discuss with them, and see what can be done," he said.

Meanwhile, replying to a query on the electrocution deaths while speaking to mediapersons at his residence, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said it was a serious issue and the government was taking necessary action. The government was considering switching from open wires to concealed cables, he added.

NHRC issues notice

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent a notice to the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, Karnataka, seeking a detailed report about the electrocution. The Commission has taken *suo moto* cognisance of the incident after looking at news reports.

According to the commission, the incident indicated negligence of the "electricity department of Bengaluru." It expects the report to include the status of the FIR, action taken against the officials responsible for the lapse, and compensation if any, granted to the next of kin of the deceased.

Peak demand in summer likely to touch 18,000 MW

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a record peak demand of over 16,000 MW earlier this year in August, in the upcoming summer season, the peak demand in Karnataka is expected to go up to 18,000-18,500 MW, officials in the Energy Department said on Tuesday.

The expected average power demand for February, March, and April would be around 15,500-16,500 MW. However, the department is confident of catering to the higher demand, Energy Minister K.J. George said at a press conference, adding that the preparations have already begun.

Current demand

While the power demand in the State currently is around 14,000 MW, there is no shortfall of power due to all the measures taken, the officials said. "We already know our power sources well (to supply to the higher demand). We are deficient in hydel, but in thermal plants we are looking to generate more. We currently have an installed capacity of 5,020 MW and have generated up to 3,400 MW. In the last 40 days, there has been no shortfall of power," said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

He added that with tender in place for the import of 2.5 lakh tonnes of coal, which would then be blended with an average of 10% domestic coal, it might increase the generation by 600-800 MW.

Barter agreements

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, MD, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., said that with barter power agreements with Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and Section 11 and other factors, the State is currently self-sufficient, and no power has been purchased from the exchange as of now.

Mr. George said that to improve the power situation in the State further, the Yelahanka gas plant, which has a capacity of 370 MW, would start functioning in around two months while the Bidadi waste plant would be functional in three months.

Waiver of arrears

The Energy Minister also announced that the State government has decided to waive outstanding arrears to the tune of ₹389.66 crore pending from beneficiaries of Bhagya Jyothi and Kuteera Jyothi who are now beneficiaries of Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Mr. George also said that the Chief Minister has given his nod in principle for the waiver of the accumulated interest levied on coffee growers with 10 HP and below IP sets in Kodagu, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru districts once they pay the outstanding principle. The outstanding dues of these farmers was ₹64.24 crore with a principle amount of ₹47.7 crore and interest of ₹16.47 crore as on September 30.

Minister sets deadline to remove unruly cables in CBD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the electrical accident which led to the death of a 23-year-old woman and her daughter near Hope Farm in Bengaluru, Energy Minister K.J. George gave a 15-day deadline to businesses that have put up optical fibre cables (OFC) in the central business district (CBD) to remove unruly cables from pavements.

When asked about the numerous complaints from citizens about wires dangling on most footpaths in Bengaluru, which could lead to more accidents, Mr. George said, "Most of them are OFCs. They are everywhere, and often unruly. In the next 15 days, if OFCs do not go inside the ducts created for them under TenderSure roads in CBD, we will exercise our power to cut cables that are passing over our lines. I will also speak to Bengaluru Development Minister D. K. Shivakumar about the matter."

He said that the alternate system for OFCs across Bengaluru will be decided after holding meetings with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and all the parties concerned.

The accident has created panic among citizens with many taking to social media to post pictures of wires dangling from poles, trees and on footpaths, and demanding immediate action from the Karnataka government to prevent untoward incidents.

Substance use disorders: NIMHANS workshop for nursing personnel from Namma Clinics

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Through this workshop, NIMHANS aims to bridge the gap between primary prevention and tertiary interventions for substance use disorders

To create awareness on the adverse health impact of addictive substances and assist individuals in quitting them, NIMHANS will conduct a workshop for nursing personnel from Namma Clinics in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Through this workshop, NIMHANS aims to bridge the gap between primary prevention and tertiary interventions for substance use disorders, as well as for the physical illnesses directly resulting from, or aggravated by, the use of addictive substances.

Two vital resource materials, Nitya Amulya, a video-based learning resource for promoting substance-free life in women, and Integrated Intervention for General Healthcare Settings, a module in a flip-book format, for guiding healthcare providers to provide substance use cessation interventions to individuals seeking care for various health problems, will be released at the workshop.

Preventive care for he control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is the major goal of Namma Clinics that were launched earlier this year by the State government. NCDs account for 77% of deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries (WHO, 2021). The use of addictive substances, particularly tobacco and alcohol, is recognised as a major (and preventable) risk factor for many NCDs. In this context, this workshop is aimed at training nursing personnel, who form a chief human resource at Namma Clinics.

The increasing use of substances among women, particularly chewable forms of tobacco such as kaddipudi processed leaf of tobacco plant), thambaku (tobacco), and even alcohol, is of increasing concern. These substances pose a serious threat to women's health, coupled with the risk of passing on the substances into the bloodstream of their babies during pregnancy and breastfeeding. In this context, Nitya Amulya is particularly aimed at preventing, or helping women to quit substance use.

In general, both the resources will enable healthcare personnel at Namma Clinics and other peripheral health centres, to prevent substance use and promote healthy lifestyles in the community, according to a statement from NIMHANS.

Valuables worth ₹70 lakh recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Govindarajanagar police on Tuesday arrested a gang of three involved in over 13 house break thefts and recovered valuables worth ₹70 lakh from them.

The prime accused in the case, identified as Karthik alias Escape Karthik, is involved in 83 cases in Karnataka as well as in Chennai and Tirupati. The accused had 18 non-bailable warrants against him, city Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

Complaint registered

Following a theft case registered in Govindarajnagar police station, the police tracked down Karthik in Goa along with two of his associates Dileep and Arjun and arrested them. Karthik was operating in the State since 2005 and had even escaped from police custody thrice earlier. Appreciating the team for nabbing Karthik, Mr. Dayananda announced a cash reward of ₹50,000.

IndiGo apologies to passengers who missed connecting flight from Bengaluru to Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IndiGo airlines has apologised to eight transit passengers who were travelling in Flight 6E 478 operating from Amritsar to Chennai via Bengaluru on November 19.

Following reports that a few passengers were forced off the plane due to low numbers and that the airline refused to fly, IndiGo on Tuesday said that due to the delay of the incoming aircraft from Amritsar, these passengers were unable to board the onward flight to Chennai at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

"Flight 6E 478 was operating from Amritsar to Chennai via Bengaluru with eight transit passengers on board. Due to the delay of the incoming aircraft from Amritsar, these passengers were unable to board the onward flight to Chennai at the Bengaluru airport," the airline said.

Lack of time

It added that the airline staff made every possible effort to help passengers make the connection, however due to lack of time, they were unable to board the aircraft.

"IndiGo ground staff made every possible effort to help passengers make the connection but due to lack of time, they were unable to board the aircraft. IndiGo staff offered the passengers overnight accommodation and booking on the next available flight but certain passengers chose to stay at the airport lounge. We deeply apologise for the inconvenience caused to the passengers," the airline said.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

BMS College 2023 Graduation Ceremony : Honoring Academic Excellence

BMS College of Commerce and Management, along with BMS Evening College of Arts and Commerce hosted its Third Graduation Ceremony at the Four Seasons Hotel. This grand event honoured the remarkable achievements of 285 undergraduates and 20 Executive Management students who have successfully completed their academic journey.The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. B.S. Ragini Narayan, Donor Trustee, Member Secretary, and Chairperson of BMSET. The Chief Guest of the Graduation ceremony were Sri Jaware Gowda T, the Registrar of Bengaluru City University. The Guest of Honours Commander M.S. Srikant (Retd) from the Indian Navy, Sri. Aviram Sharma, Trustee of BMSET, Sri. Gautham V, Chairman BMS Hospital Trust and Dr. Pankaj Choudhary, Proncipal. The graduation ceremony was a momentous occasion for all the graduating students by marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It was a memorable celebration of academic achievement and exemplary contributions to various clubs, with the anticipation of a bright future for all the graduates.

Inaugural function of the 18th Year Celebration of Dr. M. V. Jayaraman Inter-Collegiate Cricket Tournament

This 6-day cricket tournament was inaugurated by Ms. Sharda Ugra, Sports Journalist, in the presence of Dr. V Suresh Babu, Principal, MVJCE, Dr. Brindha M, Vice Principal, MVJCE, Dr. Shrinivas L Gombi, Dean Academics, MVJCE, Dr. A C Niranjanappa, Dean Research, MVJCE and Mr. Hari Hegde, Public Relations Officer, MVJCE was organised at Smt. Rajalakshmi Jayaraman Seminar Hall, MVJCE. This year, over 16 teams from various colleges and universities registered and took part in this prestigious tournament. Ms. Sharda Ugra, Sports Journalist, emphasized that it is important to balance academics with extra-curricular activities like sports, as it provides students with a holistic development. She also shared her own experience with students and enlightened them on how she was able to manage her education along with her sports career. Her speech was a great motivation to all upcoming sports enthusiastic Engineers. The 6-day Cricket Tournament is at H R Sports Cricket Ground.

CMR Group of Institutions celebrates its 32nd Founder's Day with Student Scholarship and Leadership Awards

Recently CMR University, one of Bengaluvru's leading private universities, celebrated their Founder's Day,by awarding 167 scholarships, 17 Sports scholarships & 17 leadership awards,- for encouraging and motivating students and pledging for the betterment of the society for 30+ years, as part of its founding principles. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Shri Basavaraj Shivalingappa Horatti, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, emphasized the importance of education in our lives. He expressed his appreciation for the initiatives undertaken by CMR University to enhance and provide a conducive learning environment for students. Dr. K. C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), Chairman, CMR University and CMR Group of Institutions,and Former Member of Rajya Sabha and Dr Tristha's Provost CMR University and Founder Ekya Schools inspired the students and Dr Tristha quoted "We celebrate this day in memory of my grandfather Late Shri Chikka Muniyappa Reddy whom we fondly call CMR. He was a great visionary who promoted education despite being not highly educated. His generosity in funding scholarships for students is a tradition we carry on proudly every year." Dr.K C Raju Reddy, Trustee. CMR Jnanadhara Trust and Shri KC Jaganath Reddy, Secretary, CMR Jnanadhara Trust were the guests of honor for the occasion and Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor, Shri K R Jayadeep, Pro chancellor, CMR University and Dr. H B Raghavendra, VC, CMR University was also present on the occasion.

13th Graduation Ceremony at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Yelahanka, Bengaluru

The Chief Guest Dr. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad while addressing the students said . Prof. N.R. Shetty, Former Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka presided over the function. Young graduates should think what they want to be after 20 years and commence their efforts with abundant confidence. Our country needs more job creators than job seekers. Further he added that learning skills and upgrading skills are most important factors to achieve success. Prof. Gopal Mugeraya, Vice President, Technical Education, Nitte Education Trust was the Guest of Honor. He spoke on the occasion and briefed about the emphasis being given by Nitte Education Trust in providing quality education and state-of-the-art infrastructural facilities. Prof. N.R. Shetty, Former Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka and Senior Advisor, Nitte Education Trust presided over the Graduation ceremony. Gold Medals were awarded to the best outgoing students - BOY and GIRL category for considering their performance in Curricular, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular activities during their studies at NMIT.

The VI Convocation of Presidency University, Bengaluru 2023 at its Campus

Dr. Nissar Ahmed, Chancellor, presided over the Convocation Ceremony. Mr. Rajat Dev Sehdev, MD | Accenture Security, Cyber Strategy Lead - Growth Markets, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, with Mr. Jasvinder Singh Khoral, Programme Director. Space Infrastructure: Geo Platform, ISRO, as the Guest of Honor. Addressing the Graduands, Mr. Sehdev exhorted the student to learn from their experience and move forward in life notwithstanding short-term failures and stressed on humility and integrity. Mr. Singh congratulating the Graduands emphasized on the need for the youth to appreciate the transformative power of technology and its effects shaping the future. At the Convocation, 39 Graduands were felicitated with Gold Medals, 85 Research Scholars were conferred with Doctoral degrees and 3684 undergraduate and postgraduate students across various disciplines received their degrees.

Coal isn't easy to exclude from sustainable development

Switching to renewable energy will generate investments and jobs – but in practice, the electricity grid must meet the peak demand at all times. The efficient operation of thermal power plants is critical for India: they ensure peak and off-peak demands are met continuously, at affordable costs

R. Srikanth
J.R. Bhatt

Heavy machines at an open cast coal mine in Khammam, Telangana, January 10, 2022. G.N. RAO/THE HINDU

Fossil fuels produce 80% of the total energy supplied worldwide. In 2022, oil, coal, and gas accounted for 30%, 27%, and 23% of the world's total energy, while solar and wind energy sources together contributed only 2.4%. The per capita energy supplied in India in 2022 was 37% of the global average, and only 26% of that of China. Therefore, India's energy needs will continue to grow.

Electricity security is achieved only by having a reliable and stable supply of electricity that can always match the demand at an affordable price. Only 11.5% of the electricity generated in India is produced by variable renewable energy (VRE) sources, and coal-fired thermal power plants (TPPs) generated 74.3% of India's electricity during FY 2022-2023 and continue to increase their share. The coal sector plays a vital role in infrastructure development and in the core sector industries which employ millions of people.

Further, India's cumulative emissions from fossil fuels and industry between 1750 and 2021 are only 3.3% of the global total, behind those of Europe (31%), the U.S. (24.3%), and China (14.4%). Fulfilling the development needs of 17% of the world's population, in India, is also a fundamental duty to which we must attend, or 'sustainable' development would be an empty catchphrase.

Against this backdrop, India must focus on increasing the efficiency of its TPPs to reduce emissions while ramping up nuclear energy and enhancing pumped storage to integrate more VRE sources into the grid.

What is coal's place?

According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) projections for FY32, India's national grid can absorb 924 TWh of electricity from renewable energy sources by adding 47 GW of battery storage capacity and 27 GW of pumped storage projects.

Batteries will become cost-effective only after 2030, and the tariffs of pithead TPPs are only 40% of the round-the-clock tariffs for solar plants backed by battery storage in India today. Further, any increase in battery storage capacity in India will require the import of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite, which are controlled by other countries (mainly, China), posing significant risks to India's energy security.

Ninety-six percent of the coal used by TPPs in India comes from domestic mines and is key to keeping electricity affordable in India. So the CEA projects that TPP capacity in India will reach 259-262 GW by FY32, from 212 GW in FY23.

Recent projections indicate that only 19 GW of pumped storage projects and 18 GW battery storage capacity additions are expected by FY32, which will require a further 23 GW of TPP capacity to be added to the grid by then.

To balance this with India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070, the country must continue to implement more efficient clean coal technologies.

Improving coal transport

Coal deposits in India contain high levels of ash (35-50%) compared to those mined in other coal-mining countries. Burning coal with more ash erodes boiler tubes and other components, affecting the plant's availability, efficiency, and performance.

The transport of unwashed raw coal to TPPs located more than 500 km from the mines also means transporting millions of tonnes of ash-producing non-coal material, congesting India's roads and rail transportation systems.

The practice in all major coal-producing countries is that the miner washes the high-ash coal at the pithead and dumps the rejects in the mine before dispatching the washed coal to consumers.

So the government can mandate miners to supply only washed coal to all TPPs located more than 500 km from mines to reduce emissions and pollution.

> Electricity security is achieved only by having a reliable and stable supply of electricity that can always match the demand at an affordable price

The coal-washing cost can be fixed by the electricity regulator as a part of the tariff determination process.

The issue with desulphurisers

Indian coals generally have less sulphur than that mined in other coal-rich countries. TPPs in India have tall stacks, and the flue gas' exit velocity plus favourable weather conditions means sulphur dioxide emissions are widely dispersed. Historical sulphur dioxide emissions have created a cooling effect by masking global temperature rise by 0.5 degrees Celsius.

Retrofitting existing TPPs with flue-gas desulphurisers (FGDs), increases their specific coal consumption by 1.5-1.7%, leading to lower efficiency and higher emissions. FGDs require large capital investments leading to tariff hikes.

India can therefore reduce particulate emissions by more than 99.97% by installing low-cost, high-performance electrostatic precipitators and reserve FGDs for TPPs near urban areas.

Other development strategies

Some 30% of the current TPP capacity in India is from supercritical or ultra-supercritical technologies. The advanced ultra-supercritical technology (AUSC), with a proven efficiency of 46%, could further reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 15% compared to supercritical technologies.

Integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plants also have efficiencies of 46-48% and can capture carbon dioxide.So the Government of India can incentivise deployment of IGCC or AUSC technologies at scale.

It can also repurpose some TPP sites to install small modular nuclear reactors under international safeguards to enhance zero-carbon electricity generation.

Where does this leave coal?

Global warming is the result of the combustion of all fossil fuels, not just coal. The efficient operation of TPPs is critical for India since they ensure that peak and off-peak demands are met continuously, at affordable costs.

For India, low-carbon development is not a choice but a necessity, and the steps to achieve this are reflected in its 'Long-term Low-Emissions Development Strategy'.

It is hoped that developed countries will take the lead in combating climate change and provide new and additional climate-specific financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries as per the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

(R. Srikanth is professor and dean and J.R. Bhatt is adjunct professor in the School of Natural Sciences and Engineering - both at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.)

THE GIST

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Batteries will become cost-effective only after 2030, and tariffs of pithead TPPs are only 40% of the round-the-clock tariffs for solar plants backed by battery storage. Increasing battery capacity will require import of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite. These are sourced mainly from China, posing significant risks to India's energy security

Indian coal contains high levels of ash (35-50%) compared to those mined elsewhere. Burning coal with more ash erodes boiler tubes and other components, affecting the plant's availability, efficiency, and performance

BIG SHOT

The northern lights, also called aurora borealis, illuminate the night sky over the North Atlantic Ocean in Sommaroy, Norway, on November 19, 2023. The lights are caused by coronal ejections on the sun. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Periodicity of eclipses

Q: If eclipses occur when the sun, the moon, and the earth lie on a straight line, why do they not occur on every new moon and full moon day?

A: The eclipses of the sun and the moon occur during a new moon and full moon respectively. A solar eclipse does not occur at every new moon, because the moon orbits in a plane that is inclined to the ecliptic, which is the plane of orbit of the earth around the sun. The angle between the planes is about five degrees. As a result, the moon can pass well above or below the sun.

The line of intersection of the planes is called the line of nodes. There are only two points where the moon's orbit intersects the ecliptic plane. The nodes move along the orbit from west to east, going completely around the ecliptic in about 19 years. For an eclipse to occur, the moon has to be near one of the nodes. This does not happen on all new moon and full moon days. So eclipses do not occur on every new moon and full moon days.

The moon crosses in front of the sun during the annular solar eclipse in Bogota on October 14, 2023. AFP

For feedback and suggestions
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Police launch portal to gather details of guests to streamline PG accommodations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To streamline the growing number of Paying Guest (PG) accommodations, the Bengaluru city police have launched a web portal - City Visitors Information Record Management System - to gather details of guests.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said Bengaluru has around 5,000 PG facilities to accommodate around 4.5 lakh guests working in different sectors. The details of these people are not known to the city police and at times, posing challenges to investigators in case of any eventualities. The app enables PG owners to record the data voluntarily so that the required information could be handy for the police, he said.

High Tech
PG FOR LADIES
1,2 & 3 SHARING & GEYSER 24 HOURS WATER
ATTACHED BATH ROOM & WI-FI &T.V 3 TIMES FOOD
VEG NON-VEG NORTH & SOUTH INDIAN FOOD, SECURITY,
WASHING MACHINE ALL THE FECILITIES ARE AVAILABLE
The facility has been started as a pilot project at Marathahalli, where around 67 paying guest accommodations operate. FILE PHOTO

The facility has been started as a pilot project in Marathahalli, where around 67 PGs operate. The owners of the PG have been asked to fill up the required details and follow the guidelines. The database would help tackle crimes and law and order issues and ensure that people from other States have a safe stay, the police said. PGs have also been advised to follow a minimum set of guidelines such as CCTV cameras for security purpose.

Some neighbouring States already have this facility in place and the city police are planning to implement it in a phased manner. The only disadvantage is that as it is voluntary and not mandatory, many PGs, fearing tax issues, many not enrol in the system, a police officer said.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 22, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- The OECD report on climate finance **bit.ly/oecdclimate**
- Coal isn't easy to exclude from sustainable development **bit.ly/coalsustainable**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

APPOINTMENT

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- Sri. B. Vedhagiri

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He attained the lotus feet of the almighty
His memory will forever live on in our hearts

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23rd November 2023 at 09.30AM

Inauguration of
BGS Global Institute of Dental Sciences
Shri Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education
Government of Karnataka

Inauguration of Cultural Fest
Rocking Star Yash
Indian Actor

Chief Guests

Shri N. Chaluvaraya Swamy
Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture
Government of Karnataka

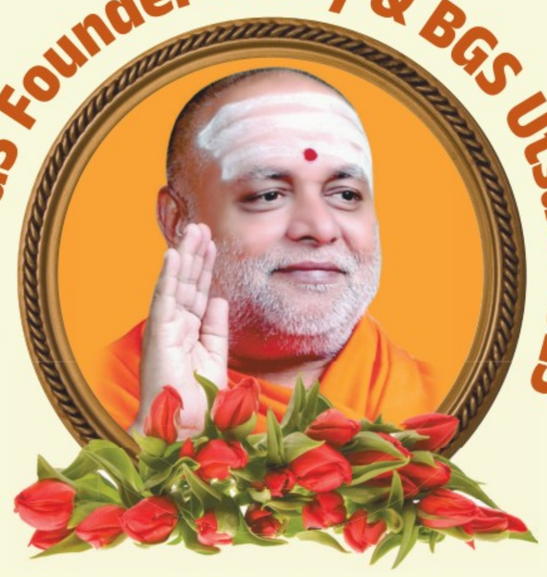
Shri N. Govindaraju
Hon'ble MLC
Political Secretary to Hon'ble CM

Shri S.T. Somashekhar
MLA, Yeshvanthpura
Constituency

Ms. Nishvika Naidu
Kannada Film Actress

- Venue -
BGS Health & Education City Campus,
Kengeri, Bengaluru

15th BGS Founder's Day & BGS Utsav 2023



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24rd November 2023 at 09.30AM

Robotic & Skill Lab Inauguration
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka

Inauguration of Cultural Fest
Darshan Thoogudeepa
Indian Actor

Shri Tejaswi Surya
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Government of India

Valedictory by
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guest
Shri Dr. Sudhakar M.C.
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Government of Karnataka

Guests of Honor
Shri Ramesh Arvind
Actor & Movie Director
Shri Lt General (Dr). Rajesh Pant
National Cyber Security Co-Ordinator National Security Council of India, PMO

Prize Distribution
Shri Prem, Producer & Director
Smt Rakshitha Prem, Indian Film Actress
Smt Amulya, Kannada Film Actress

All are Welcome

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Funds for inland waterways projects granted to northeast

1,100 in ₹ crore. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal informed that the Union government granted the funds for the development of 25 inland waterways projects in the northeast region. PTI

The military aid announced by Germany for Ukraine

1.4 in $ billion. Germany's Defence Minister made the pledge on his announced visit to Kyiv. A flurry of visits from senior officials have sought to reassure Kyiv of military support, as the world's attention shifts to Gaza. AFP

The wild animals dead in Odisha in the last five years

2,817 Four tigers, 430 elephants and 31 leopards were among the 2,817 wild animals that died in Odisha during the last five years, the Forest Minister said, noting that 40% of posts in his department were lying vacant. PTI

The decrease in FDI equity inflows during April-September

24 in percentage. Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows in India declined to $20.48 billion in April-September 2023, dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto and pharma, according to government data. PTI

Refugees in Chad to lose food aid over lack of funding

1.4 million refugees. Food assistance to refugees in Chad could end because of limited funding, the United Nation's World Food Programme warned. Most of the refugees had escaped the war in Sudan. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The OECD report on climate finance

How much of the climate finance provided by developed countries is comprised of loans? What does the 'new and additional finance' clause in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change mean? Why do rich and developed economies want to keep the definition of climate finance vague?

EXPLAINER

Rishika Pardikar

A new report, published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), showed that economically developed countries fell short of their promise to jointly mobilise $100 billion a year towards climate mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries in 2021 – one year past the 2020 deadline. The report said that developed countries mobilised $89.6 billion in 2021 and that finances for adaptation fell by 14% in 2021 compared to 2020.

Why is the OECD report important?
The OECD is largely a group of rich countries including the U.S., the U.K., Germany, France, Switzerland, Canada, and others. The report, as such, offers a peek into their idea of climate finance ahead of the COP28 climate talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) next week, where the topic is expected to be a key bone of contention.

The report also comes against the backdrop of a pledge by the bloc of developed nations at the COP26 talks in Glasgow, in 2020, to double adaptation finance. Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had also said at Glasgow, "with deep regret", that the developed nations bloc hadn't met the $100 billion climate finance goal in due time in 2020. The failure to mobilise adequate climate finance lowers capacity in developing countries to address climate mitigation (like emissions reduction with renewable energy) and adaptation needs (like developing and incentivising climate-resilient agriculture), and reduces trust among the world's poorer countries that the developed world is serious about tackling the climate crisis.

How is climate finance accounted for?
The OECD report showed that of the $73.1 billion mobilised in 2021 by the public sector via bilateral and multilateral channels, $49.6 billion was provided as loans. While the report doesn't classify them in terms of the rates at which they're provided, data available elsewhere sheds light on the extent to which rich countries rely on loans at commercial rates to fulfil their climate finance obligations. For example, an assessment by the American non-profit research group Climate Policy Initiative of global climate finance flows between 2011 and 2020 found that 61% of climate finance was provided as loans, of which only 12% was at concessional interest rates.

So, when the OECD report states that two-thirds of public climate financing was provided as loans, it means the conditions attached to such financing could further exacerbate debt stress in poorer countries. This is also a critique of the OECD report as it considers loans at face value, not the grant equivalent, when arriving at total climate finance figures. This means that while poorer countries shell out money towards repayment and interest, the loan is still counted as climate finance provided by the developed world.

What is additionality?
Another issue in the OECD report pertains to additionality. The UNFCCC states that developed countries "shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under the convention". This means that developed countries cannot cut overseas development assistance (ODA) in order to finance climate needs because that would effectively rob Peter to pay Paul. In real-world terms, it would mean cutting off support for healthcare to reallocate that money to, say, install solar panels.

The "new and additional finance" also means that developed countries cannot double-count. For example, a renewable energy project could contribute to both emission reductions and overall development in a region. However, as per the UN Convention, donor countries cannot categorise such funding as both ODA and climate finance because it wouldn't fulfil the "new and additional" criterion. Yet they do. A few years ago, European Union officials admitted to double-counting development aid as climate finance.

What counts as climate finance?
At present, there is no commonly agreed definition of 'climate finance' because developed countries have endeavoured to keep it vague. For example, at the COP27 in Egypt last year, Australia and the U.K. even sought to end discussions to define 'climate finance'. In the run up to the COP26 in Glasgow, the U.S. led an effort to block debate on a common definition, alongside Switzerland, Sweden, and some other developed countries.

The lack of definitional clarity has reportedly led to ridiculous situations like the funding of chocolate and gelato stores across Asia and a coastal hotel expansion in Haiti being tagged as climate finance. The ambiguity works in favour of richer countries because it leaves the door open to arbitrarily classify any funding, including ODA and high-cost loans, as climate finance and escape the scrutiny that a clearer definition might bring. Therefore, while developed countries can claim they have provided billions in climate finance, the actual flows need to be checked to know whether they went into climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries or something else.

How much financial assistance do developing countries need?
The latest OECD report claims, based on preliminary and as-yet-unverified data, that the $100 billion goal was likely met in 2022. But the data is neither finalised nor published, and the advisable take-away is scepticism. It is also important to note that the figure of $100 billion came out of thin air at the COP15 talks and isn't based on an assessment of how much climate investment developing countries actually need. The OECD report added that by 2025, developing countries are estimated to require around $1 trillion a year in climate investments, rising to roughly $2.4 trillion each year between 2026 and 2030. The $100 billion goal pales in comparison, dwarfed further by the fact that it remains unmet.

What role can the private sector play?
To meet the scale of the challenge, people like the U.S. climate envoy John Kerry and World Bank President Ajay Banga have routinely emphasised the role the private sector could play.

But the OECD report itself threw cold water on such hopes, showing that private financing for climate action has stagnated for a decade, while public funding from multilateral channels, both multilateral development banks (MDBs) and multilateral climate funds, increased in the same period. In 2021 in particular, it showed that private funding reverted to its 2019 level following a slight dip in 2020.

As a course-correction measure, the OECD report suggested de-risking with government intervention and called on MDBs to integrate private finance mobilisation strategies as part of their core objective. Its reasoning is that the private sector can help enable climate action but that it "requires the proactive involvement of governments and international institutions to support, incentivise and de-risk individual projects, as well as to create the necessary conditions for investment in developing countries more generally".

But as of today, there aren't any signs that the private sector is interested in massively scaling up its climate investments. The problem is particularly worse for climate adaptation, because investment in this sector can't generate the sort of high returns that private investors seek and which the mitigation sector – like a solar or wind farm – could generate.

At the end of the day, the ball rolls back into the court of public funding, that is governments in the developed world plus multilateral development banks. The OECD report shows that even those who place hope in higher private funding for climate action in the future recognise that it is governments and MDBs that are the enabling parties here.

Rishika Pardikar is a freelance environment reporter based in Bengaluru.

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

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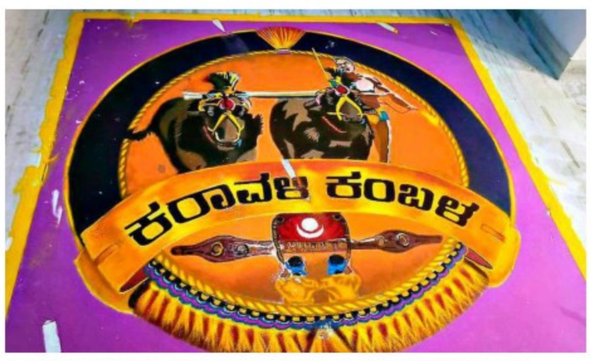
Organisers say Brij Bhushan will not attend Kambala

The MP from Uttar Pradesh has been accused of sexual assault by women wrestlers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a backlash over inviting Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, BJP MP, for felicitating wrestlers at Kambala, a buffalo race event being held for the first time in Bengaluru, the organisers said it was an "oversight" and he will not be attending the event. The MP from Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh, has been accused of sexual assault by women wrestlers.

In the invitation card of the event slated on November 25 and 26, Mr. Singh's named was mentioned along with those of Kannada actor Darshan Thoodudeepa, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. president Vishal Singh, and former Minister Aravind Limbavali. Mr. Singh was invited to facilitate wrestlers who won medals at the national games held in Goa.



Kambala, a buffalo race event, will be held for the first time in Bengaluru on November 25 and 26. FILE PHOTO

Umesh Shetty, former BBMP councillor and organising president of Bengaluru Kambala Committee, told *The Hindu*: "The main organisers of the sporting event had not invited Mr. Singh, but the wrestlers wanted him to be present to felicitate them. These wrestlers secured the opportunity due to the Wrestlers Federation."

Mr. Shetty said Mr. Singh's name was printed on the invitation card as an oversight and the printing team did not know about him, neither did many organisers. The team that was tasked with printing the invitation did not discuss this with the main organisers.

"Mr. Singh will not be attending the event," Mr. Shetty said.

This is the first time Kambala is being held in Bengaluru.

Bitcoin scam: SIT to source high-end tool to track trail of transactions

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which was constituted to probe the bitcoin scam that unfolded during the previous BJP rule, will source a high-end tool to unearth the trail of bitcoins moved by the accused Srikrishna Ramesh aka Sriki.

A source told *The Hindu* that the SIT is sourcing the tool specially designed for tracking the movement of cryptocurrencies and if put to use, this will be first of its kind employed for any investigation in the State.

The decision was taken to purchase the tool as SIT is grappling to find evidence for transactions of bitcoins. It was alleged that Sriki was forced to move the coins, which he allegedly stole from cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex, by police officials who were investigating him in a drug case and certain influential personalities in the political circles.

Sriki was arrested by Central Crime Branch in 2020. The sources say that he had moved several coins from the cell using a laptop smuggled inside Parappana Agrahara.

While SIT is in the know of these transactions, the team wants to find out where these coins have been moved and the networks used for the transactions. SIT believes that this tool may come in handy in the process of investigation.

A source said these coins were moved using the Darknet network, which offers anonymity to the user. Hackers who trade stolen Bitcoins also mask the Virtual Private Network. The coins were moved from Sriki's wallet.

On the other hand, the SIT is likely to quiz three prison officials who allegedly facilitated Sriki to carry out the transactions.

Samath Bhat, a cryptocurrency security expert, said there are many tools to trace the movement of coins, but it again depends on how effective these tools are and which network the accused had used to conduct transactions. "It is extremely difficult, but possible to unearth the trail in Darknet. Darknet is the most preferred conduit to move the coins secretly."

Additional chargesheet against Amrit Paul

The CID has filed an additional chargesheet in the PSI scandal involving suspended IPS officer Amrit Paul in the special court (Prevention of Corruption). A senior police officer in the CID has confirmed this.

In September 2022, a 1,406-page chargesheet was filed in the court when he was in prison. Paul, who was posted as the Additional Director General of Police (Recruitment), was granted bail in September 2023. He was arrested in July 2022.

Passengers penalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KSRTC, in a release, said during October, the vigilance squad checked 47,779 buses and detected 3,501 cases of pilferage and penalised 3,553 ticket-less passengers and collected a fine of ₹5,60,582. It stated that action has been initiated against erring staff.

Health Dept. steps up work on developing action plan for AMR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stepping up work on developing a State action plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Karnataka's Health Department has set out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR. The action plan has been pending for nearly five years.

World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed from November 18 to November 24. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated a State-level sensitisation workshop for health officials on Tuesday, said Karnataka will adopt a "one health approach" by involving various stakeholders in its efforts to check AMR. "The State action plan will not merely be restricted to listing priorities and objectives but will also set out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR in Karnataka," the Minister said.

AMR, declared by the UN as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, occurs when pathogens change over time and stop responding to medicines, making infections harder to treat. Overexposing pathogens to antimicrobial drugs due to abuse, misuse and/or overuse, enables the pathogens to acquire resistance against the drug.

Swetavalli Raghavan, One Health expert who is advising Karnataka's Health Department on developing the action plan, said India is considered as the epicentre of the global AMR crisis, with unprecedented antimicrobial consumption, production, and "misuse." Ms. Raghavan said the battle against AMR requires a collaborative effort from multiple stakeholders. "To make the action plan deliverable, comprehensive strategies that focus on responsible antibiotic use, education, and surveillance should be implemented. Improved infection control and prevention programmes including vaccination against multi-drug resistance bugs and sub-area wise vaccination profiles should be created to feed into surveillance systems," she said.

Common answer booklet proposed for classes X and XII

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) is planning to make a common answer booklet for the annual examinations of classes X and XII from this academic year. It has constituted a committee to examine the pros and cons of the proposal, and after the committee submits its report, it will take a final call.

The KSEAB has decided to conduct three annual examinations for class X and XII students from this academic year in the State. Earlier, the board provided double-stitched separate answer booklets for class X and XII annual examination. For the class X examination, mathematics had a 32-page answer booklet, while the rest of the subjects had 24-page booklets. For class XII, all subjects had 28-page booklets.

Every year, the board orders to print an additional 5% answer booklets against the total number of registered students, which include information such as the date and year of the examination and subject name. After the completion of the examination, pending booklets are handed over for recycling as they are of no use.

To prevent wastage, the board is planning to make the booklets last longer by making common answer booklets for both examinations. "In the proposed new version of the answer booklet, there will be no information of the subject, date, and year of the examination. All this should be filled by the student. This will result in the remaining answer booklets being usable for a long time. The committee will submit a report within 15 days," an official said.

"In the new version of the answer booklet, we will have high security features, including barcode. This year, around 8.86 lakh students have registered for the class X exam and registration is under way for class XII exam. In July, we have already released the model paper for class XII students and the model question paper for class X will be released soon," officials added.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	14:05	SET 01:28
THURSDAY, NOV. 23		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	14:46	SET 02:22
FRIDAY, NOV. 24		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	15:28	SET 03:17

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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LOST and FOUND

I, Mrs. KEERTHANA.A, aged about 34 years, W/o. Nikhil, residing at No. 678, 15th Main, 30th Cross, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore-560041, I hereby declare that I have lost my Original Sale Deed Document which was registered on 28/03/2011 at Banashankari Sub Register Office, Book1. BSK-1-09203-2010 11, CD No, BSKD107. and the same was not found even after a good search.

In case any one finds the document, the same may be returned to above address

KEERTHANA. A

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: B/TRD.2023-24/09
Dated : 13-11-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(I) Conversion of OHE from tramway to conventional in WHPC-SGWF-WFD Rd 5, replacement of Isolators and Shifting of mast in WFD depot Jurisdiction (II) Provision of sacrificial mast and bifurcation of Roads at SGT Yard (III) Electrification of Rd-10 and top wiring arrangements for Rd-11 and Rd-12 at SGT Yard.	Rs. 2,61,49,027.74

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 07-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Traction Distribution, Bengaluru
PUB/502/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA-KARNATAKA
New Public Offices Annex Building,
Nrupatunga Road, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001
No. SSK/Meeting see/Protocol/2023-24 Date: 22.11.2023
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal Only)

Sub: Invitation of short term Re tender for Supply of Food for the Meetings conducted by Samagra Shikshana - Karnataka through e-procurement portal.

Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka has invited short term Re-tender through e-procurement portal for supply of Food for the Meetings conducted by Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka from eligible firms / agencies.

Last date of submission of tender is **06.12.2023 at 5:00 PM.** Details can be obtained from: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Joint Director (Admin)
SSK, Karnataka
DIPR/CP/JA/2210/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.18 of 2023-24
No.3896 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 14th November-2023
The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for four number building works to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: **https://tendersorissa.qov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5:00 P.M of 20.11.2023 to 5.00 P.M of 04.12.2023**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 A.M. of 05.12.2023** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/- Er. P.K.Mohanty
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.
B-1301 : OIPR-34156/11/0023/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 38 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below :
2. Nature of work : **Bridge works**
3. No. of work : **02 nos.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)**
5. Class of Contractor : **A / Special Class Contractor**
6. Available of bid document in the website : **From 10.00 AM of 20.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 06.12.2023**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.07.12.2023 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1302: OIPR-34003/11/0063/2324

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No. 11277/OSMCL/2023 Date : 18/11/2023
NOTICE INVITING Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 128 slice CT Scan Machine and Tender for 1.5T MRI Scan Machine for Dept. of Radio diagnosis of SCBMCH-Cuttack
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2023-24/CT Scan Retender_MRI_ SCBMCH Cuttack/23	Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 128 slice CT Scan Machine and tender for 1.5T MRI Scan Machine for Dept. of Radio diagnosis of SCBMCH-Cuttack	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	18.11.2023, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	24.11.2023, 11.00 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 06.12.2023, 3 PM	End Date & Time: 27.12.2023, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	30.12.2023, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director, OSMCL.
CAD-2932 : OIPR-10112/11/0034/2324

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NPFP-UPS BATTERIES /1693/2023-24 Date: 21-11-2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible Firms/contractors through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below.The interested and reputed Firms/Contractors who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 88 nos 12V-200Ah rechargeable SMF batteries for 200KVA X 2 nos online UPS system on buy back basis to NPFP Munnekolla (2nd Call)	1 Job	45,000/-	2 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 22-11-2023 to 01-12-2023 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 01-12-2023 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 02-12-2023 at 4.30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನಿಗಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಖರೀದಿ ಶಾಖೆ,
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570017
Telephone No: 9448994705
CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section
CESC, Mysuru-570017
Website: www.cescmysore.org
E-mail ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org
Company Identity Number(CIN): U40109KA2004SGC035177
CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-1)/M(P-1)/2023-24/14476 Date: 16.11.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Goods & Services as mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Enquiry no. / Date
1	Supply of Desktop Computers as per the specification of CESC	C2-5577/15-11-2023

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.
For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/647/2023-24

ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಕಹಾಮ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಡಾ. ಎಂ. ಹೆಚ್. ಮರೀಗೌಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 029. ಫೋನ್: 080–26096888, 26096858
IFT No.: ಕಹಾಮ/ಅಭಿ/ಮಡೇ–ಉ.ಕಟ್ಟಡ ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ/01481/2023–24 ದಿ:21.11.2023
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳವು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ/ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ/ಎಂ.ಇ.ಎಸ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖೇನ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (Technical and Financial) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಸೇರಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.	ಮುಕ್ತಾಯದ ಅವಧಿ
1	ಮದರ್ ಡೇರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿನ ಮೊಸರು ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ಘಟಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಐಸ್ ಕ್ರೀಮ್ ಘಟಕದ ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮತ್ತಿತ್ತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು – ಯಲಹಂಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.	ರೂ. 418.97 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು	ರೂ.6,30,000/–	12 ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳು

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.11.2023 ರಿಂದ 26.12.2023 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ 2) ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2023 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3) ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು (Cover-1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.12.2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/– ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಅಭಿಯಂತರ–1)

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KEYWORD

What's the matter: a short treatise on Indian Materialism

Materialism is neither new nor mystical. It has been around as a system of thought since the earliest records of human history. Simply put, it maintains that the origin of everything that really exists is 'matter'

Prathmesh Kher

ISTOCKPHOTO

Philosophy may be defined as a unified theory of life. The function of philosophy is to explain the universe and all its constituents. To provide oneself with a comprehensive view of life, and to have this view serve as a frame of reference for all of one's actions.

"Strictly speaking, philosophy is materialism, and materialism is the only possible philosophy. For, it represents the knowledge of nature as it really exists – knowledge acquired through the contemplation, observation and investigation of the phenomena of nature itself," wrote Indian freedom fighter and radical Humanist philosopher Manabendra Nath Roy in his 1938 opus *Materialism*. And while the discoveries of the quantum realm and its subatomic elements shook the foundations of material sciences in early 20th century, 'matter' in the sense of the substance of physical reality continues to persist.

What is materialism?

Materialism, simply put, maintains that the origin of everything that really exists is matter; that there does not exist anything but matter, that all other appearances, including intelligence, are transformations of matter, and these transformations are governed necessarily by laws inherent in nature, which is fundamentally material.

Materialism is neither new nor mystical. It has been around as a system of thought since the earliest records of human history. In ancient India, Materialism found grounding with the Lokāyata, which was pioneered by philosophers like Brhaspati, Ajita, and Jābāli, among others. The early Greek philosophers who sought to explain the world by itself were materialists. The atomism of Democritus, and Epicurus, as well as the pre-Socratic philosophers' desire to find an explanation for the constituents of the cosmos were the earliest examples of Materialism in the western tradition.

Materialism is a philosophy that exists everywhere but is yet without a home. In India, the theologically inclined claim that materialism is a western philosophical construct, while in the West, faith-based philosophers decry the evils of materialism. Both in the West and closer home, materialism is painted as a hedonic, indulgent way of living. Yet, so many of the wondrous inventions of our age, as well as the many terrifying weapons we make, owe their development to the progressive understanding human beings have seized from nature's core.

Unlike our age, ancient times were periods of great resource crunches. Even if the king was wealthy, the populace at large lived on subsistence, and elaborate ceremonies began to dictate the lives of the people as the natural religion of the early Vedic era gave way to the dogmatic ritualism that developed over time in ancient India. This was not unopposed. The Upanishads frankly chastise this obsession with dogmatic sacramentalism and look back to the earliest period of the Vedas. Such profundity of thought is reflected in the early Chāndogya Upanishad, "All this is Brahman. Everything comes from Brahman, everything goes back to Brahman, and everything is sustained by Brahman. One should therefore quietly meditate on it. Each person has a mind of his own. What a person wills in his present, he becomes in the future. One should bear this in mind and will accordingly." A worldview that sees God in all things and all things in God, leaves little room for traditional religion, and philosophically opens the floodgates of materialism, for it solidifies the real world as divine, and makes it manifest. This was the period when the Lokāyatas found their antecedents. From the time of Brhaspati, the materialists of ancient India had held that the world was real, made up of elements, available to human perception, and that ethics, if any, followed these hard facts.

With the rise of Buddhism and Jainism, as well as other social and political developments in the post-Vedic age, the dominant role that Lokāyata enjoyed went into decline. However, the influence of Materialism continued to be felt long after it went out of popular convention.

What's in a name?

Materialism in India has had many names. Lokāyata, Chárváka, Bhautikvad, Jadavāda, Dehātmavāda etc. are familiar names to describe materialists.

Lokā refers to the world, although the etymological root for it refers to that which can be seen. The Mahābhārata expression '*lokesu ca samo bhava*' or 'see all things with equanimity' expresses the sentiment clearly. Thus, Lokāyata is the worldly philosophy, dealing with objects and entities in the world. Indian Marxist philosopher Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya famously declares: "Lokāyata means the philosophy of the people. It also means the philosophy which is this – worldliness or instinctive materialism. At every stage materialist philosophy has relied on the practical test of reality and on the necessity of change."

According to Hemachandra, the Jain polymath, the word Chárváka finds its origin in 'charv' or 'to chew'. Hence the expression, 'carvatyātmānam cārvākah' or 'Cārvāka chews the self'. This refers to the purportedly hedonic life that the Chárvákas espoused. "*Aham annam aham annam aham annam aham annādah aham annādah aham annādah aham ślokakrt aham ślokakrt aham rtasya prathamajāh devebhyah pūrvam amrtasya nā bhāyi*" or "I am food! I am food! I am food! I am the eater of food! I am the eater of food! I am the eater of food! I am he who maketh the verse! I am he who maketh the verse! I am he who maketh the verse! I am the firstborn of the Law; before the gods were, I am, yea at the very heart of immortality." This verse from the Vedantic Taittiriya Upanishad captures the sentiment of someone who sees oneself as the 'eater of self'.

Bhautikvad is derived from the word Bhautika, which means physical or material. Bhautika itself is derived from Bhu, and its derivative Bhava, meaning being and becoming respectively. As such, *Bhautika Vignyan* continues to be the word for physical sciences in many laboratories across India. Bhautika itself is derived from Bhu, and its derivative Bhava, meaning being and becoming respectively. One of the names for God, often referred to as 'Prabhu' in the theological tradition, literally means that which is 'prior to being'. Jadavāda refers to the tendency of the Materialists to seek out the *jada* or root of existence, which they said was material than spiritual. Jatavidyā, or knowledge of the origin of all things, was what they extolled. This desire to seek out the genesis of things is as ancient as human life.

On the subject of the name 'Materialism', M.N. Roy had written in his 1947 treatise *Science and Philosophy*: "Call this philosophical generalisation of the various branches of scientific knowledge, Objectivism, Naturalism or Realism, or by another name you prefer to Materialism. That would make no essential difference."

Elementary, my dear Watson

The earliest philosophers were all materialists of one sort or another. The Indian philosophic tradition held the existence of the four classical elements in correspondence to their Hellenic counterparts. The four fundamental elements, or Mahābhūtas, were considered to be *agni* (fire), *apa* (water), *vāyu* (wind) and *prthvī* (earth).

Then, how does reality come into picture though, with its variegated forms, from mere elements? To that the Lokāyatas responded that it is the 'svabhāva' or literally 'self-becoming'. '*Svabhāva-hētu-jāH bhāvā*' or "self-becoming causes becoming" as the Mahābhārata famously puts it. Many philosophical schools, disposed towards a belief in God, argued that the svabhāva was in fact an aspect of Brahman, the ultimate principle. The Lokāyatas, however, expressly rejected any belief in divine providence, refuting the existence of any world beyond the singular one in which we exist. As they would put it, "*ihalōkāt parō nānyah svargō'sti narakō na vā | śivalōkādayō mūdhaih kalpyantē'nyaih pratārakaih*" or "beyond this world there is nothing; neither heaven nor hell. That there is a world for Lord Śiva (or any other deity) is the imaginings of fools."

Ancient philosophy also hotly debated the existence of an *atman* (self) as distinct from the *deha* (body). As the Bhagavad Gita famously said, "*dēhinō'sminyathā dēhē kaumāram yauvanam jarā | tathā dēhāntaraprāptirdhīrastatra na muhyati*" or "just as the embodied soul continuously passes from childhood to youth to old age, similarly, at the time of death, the soul passes into another body. The wise are not deluded by this." To this the Lokāyatas retort, "*sthūlō'ham tarunō vrddhō yuvētyādiviśēsanaih | viśistō dēha ēvātmā na tatō'nyō vilaksanah*" or "*I am fat, young, old, and so on, are all but adjectives. The self is the body itself, and nothing distinct from the body.*" In this regard, the Lokāyatas anticipated Friedrich Nietzsche's famous declaration: "The awakened say: body I am entirely, and nothing else; and soul is only a word for something about the body." To this end, the Lokāyatas were aptly referred to as Dehātmavādis, or those who declare that the body and the self are one.

As with the conception of a self, consciousness is also, in Materialist ontology, fundamentally a physical phenomenon. This realisation was evident to the ancient Lokāyatas thinkers as well. Materialist doctrine rejected the dualism inherent in many ancient schools of thought; in its framework the mind is a state of physical composition – "the root elements appear as consciousness, just as mixing betel and areca nut produces the colour (red)," as the Lokāyatas would put it. In our flights of fancy, we may think of our mind as having wandered away to the moon but it is always housed within our brain, which is a physical construct, and when deprived long enough of oxygen or nutrition, the effects of the body on the mind are self-evident. "Matter is primeval, and the properties of matter are inexhaustible. Mind is an aspect of matter, being a function of the brain. Ideas, therefore, are not primary phenomena, but rather the reflection of material processes and changes upon human consciousness which is itself a material process," the Indian polymath D.D. Kosambi had written in his 1957 collection *Exasperating Essays*, almost as if recapitulating with a modern accent the fundamental premises of those hoary materialists of millennia past.

This is the first of a two-part series on the philosophy of Indian Materialism.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. M. B. Gopal, Subedari, Warangal, wants to know the meaning of 'pro tem'."

" 'Pro tem' means 'now but only for a short time, for the present only'. 'Pro tem' is a contraction of 'pro tempore', for the time being. This is a Latin expression. A pro tem Speaker is a Speaker for a short time. He will be Speaker till a regular one is elected. The 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'toe', the 'e' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'ten'."

"Sir, Mr. P. Murali wants to know the meaning of the word 'perforce'."

"This is a very old-fashioned word. It's better not to use it. It is occasionally used in literature. It means 'of necessity, compulsorily'.

When the riots broke out, I, perforce, ran for shelter."

"Sir, Mr. N. Lakshminarayan wants to know the meaning of 'hatchet man'."

"A hatchet is a 'light, short-handled axe'. A hatchet man is 'one who is used to discredit and remove opponents or to carry out criminal tasks'. It also means 'a person employed to reduce staff and expenditure in a firm etc'. A hatchet man is not a pleasant person to deal with.

He is the hatchet man of the party.

A hatchet job is a cruel attack in speech or writing.

He did a hatchet job on her speech.

'To bury the hatchet' is 'to lay down one's arms, to cease from hostilities'.

They buried the hatchet in the interest of the party."

"Sir, Mr. G. Bhaskar Rao wants to know the origin of 'earmarked'."

"To earmark means 'to set aside something for a particular purpose'. You 'mark' something for a purpose.

This land is earmarked for a school.

The ears of cattle and sheep generally have a mark to denote their owner. It is a stamp of ownership. The mark on the ear is the earmark. So anything that is set aside for a particular purpose is said to be 'earmarked'."

"Sir, Ms. J. Singh, Ahmedabad, wants to know the difference between 'deviation' and 'aberration'."

" 'Deviation' means 'digression'.

I was surprised at his deviation from the prepared text.

He never deviates from his routine.

He occasionally deviates into sense!

'Deviation' can be good or bad. 'Aberration' has a bad connotation. It has implications of error, fault or abnormality. It can also relate to transgressions of moral law or code.

In a moment of aberration, he uttered a lie. He is generally honest.

Please forgive me for the aberration in the calculation."

"Sir, Ms. A. Kohli, Bombay, wants to know whether the word 'release' is correctly used in the sentence: 'He released the book at the function'."

"In English, the word 'launch' is used in such contexts.

The minister launched the novel of his wife at a pleasant function.

'Release' is used generally with 'a news story, government information, gramophone record, film'.

In India new books are 'released' and in English-speaking countries they are 'launched'."

Published in The Hindu on January 23, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On November 22, 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. A quiz on the tragic event that occurred exactly 60 years ago

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In which city and at what time was the 35th President gunned down by a lone shooter acting alone?

QUESTION 2
Name the shooter and from which building did he fire the fatal shot?

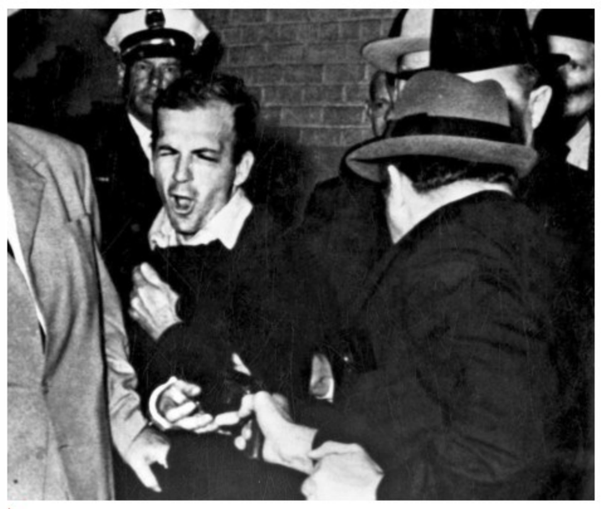
QUESTION 3
Why is the name of Abraham Zapruder indelibly linked to the assassination of JFK?

QUESTION 4
Apart from the Kennedys and the driver, who were the other passengers in the 1961 Lincoln Continental code-named the X-100.

QUESTION 5
Name the hospital where JFK was admitted and 'officially' passed away at 1 p.m. Two days later, the assassin also died there.

QUESTION 6
Who took the oath of office as the President within 100 minutes of the death and where did happen?

QUESTION 7
On November 29, JFK's successor formed the 'President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy'. By what name is the commission commonly referred?



Visual question:
In this famous photograph, name the person shooting the killer of JFK and how did this incident make TV history? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. India won the ICC World Cup in 1983 against this team by these many runs. **Ans: West Indies, 43**
2. The significance of the final concerning the total score set by India in 1983. **Ans: It remains the lowest-ever total defended in a World Cup final. There was no 'Man of the Series' in 1983**
3. The 2011 final did not feature this team. **Ans: Australia**
4. This composer composed the song for the 2011 World Cup. This animal was the mascot. **Ans: Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy; Elephant**
5. This bowler became the leading wicket-taker in the 2023 tournament. **Ans: Mohammed Shami with 24 wickets**
6. These two teams in the 2023 tournament scored the lowest scores individually. **Ans: Sri Lanka and South Africa at 55 and 83 respectively. Both were against India.**
7. This cricket player in the 2003 World Cup was sent home from the tournament after a positive drug test. **Ans: Shane Warne**
Visual: The significance of this image. **Ans: Pakistani player Shoaib Akhtar set a world record, becoming the fastest bowler in the history of cricket, in a pool match against England in 2003**
Early Birds: Thrisha Shyam| Vineet Giri| M. Suresh Kumar| Jithin.K.John

Word of the day

Woebegone:
worn and broken down by hard use; affected by or full of grief or woe

Synonyms: decrepit, derelict, run-down

Usage: *His sorrow made him look haggard and woebegone.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/woebegonepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈwəʊbɪgɒn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

'Demand for functional skills in technology sector as high as ever'

Opportunities Desk

Hiring in the technology sector remains "muted". But amidst this scenario, demand for talent with functional skills (Development, ERP, Automotive Design, Testing and Administration among them) remains as high as ever, says a report by Quess Corp.

According to the report, 65% of the aggregate demand emerged from the top five skill suites – Development, ERP, Automotive Design, Testing and Administration.

In addition to these functional skill suites, incremental demand for skills related to Gen AI, Data Science, DevOps, Cloud, Automotive Engineering and Cyber Security Networking was also noted.

Entry-level jobs

According to Quess, there is a noticeable uptick in hiring freshers in sectors such as Engineering, Manufacturing, Healthcare and Retail. Skills pertaining to Data Engineering, Development (Java, Angular), ERPs, Power BI, Network Engineering, Cybersecurity, and UI/UX are particularly sought after among early career professionals.

City-wise trends

Bengaluru has been the tech hub for a while. The new ones joining Bengaluru are Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and NCR, the report says.

This shift is driven by their flourishing tech industries and the presence of both domestic and international companies, the report adds.

City-wise trends for technology hiring demand in India is relatively concentrated, with the top five cities accounting for over 79% of all job postings.

However, the rapid development of infrastructure, skill diversity, remote work and governmental initiatives such as smart cities have enabled an upswing in hiring across Tier 2 and 3 cities, particularly in Ahmedabad, Mysuru, Jaipur, Indore, Coimbatore and Kochi.

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Commencement of Online Submission of Application to POWERGRID	22.11.2023
Last date of receipt of online application	12.12.2023

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The last date of receipt of applications for vacancy notice no. RCIL/2023/P&A/44/1 and RCIL/2023/P&A/44/24 has been extended to 02.12.2023.

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The detialed notices may be accessed on RailTel's website https://www.railtel.in/career.html under 'current job openings' section and https://cdn.digialm.com//EForms/configuredHtml/1258/85961/Index.html.

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GENERAL

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Geriatrics
MD (Geriatrics / General Medicine / Family Medicine) with 1 year experience as a Senior Resident in a recognized medical college.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Anaesthesiology / Emergency Medicine
MD in the concerned subject, with 2 year's experience as an Associate Professor in a recognized medical college.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Medical Oncology / Neuro Radiology / Hepatology / Reproductive Medicine & Surgery
DM/DNB / M.Ch/DNB in the concerned subject, with 1 year experience as an Associate Professor in a recognized medical college.

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The detailed advertisement regard to Age, Qualification, Experience, Mode of applying, Selection procedure etc. are available at HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in.** The last date for receipt of online application is **10.12.2023.** Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any will be hosted on HAL website only.

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INBRIEF

Yediyurappa to attend election rally in Telangana

BJP veteran leader and party parliamentary board member B.S. Yediyurappa will participate in the election rally being organised by the Telangana unit of BJP in Zahirabad on Wednesday. According to a communication from Mr. Yediyurappa's office, he would be returning to Bengaluru on the same day after attending the election rally. It may be noted that both the BJP and the Congress are trying to utilise the services of their leaders in Karnataka to campaign for the Assembly polls in Telangana.

I-T searches conducted on industrialists in Bengaluru

Income Tax officials on Tuesday searched residences and offices of some industrialists in Bengaluru. The searches were conducted on premises belonging to industrialists in Rajajinagar, Magadi Road and Adugodi in Bengaluru, and a premises at Harohalli Industrial Estate in Ramanagara district. Sources said that the searches were on till late night. The IT officials are learnt to have seized documents pertaining to financial transactions from the premises that were searched.

'Surrogacy using donor gametes cannot be prohibited as a condition in consent form'

High Court allows 12 couples to have child through surrogacy using donor female gametes if they fulfil other medical conditions as per law

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that disallowing surrogacy through donor gametes as a condition in the consent form for seeking permission to undergo surrogacy is contrary to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the rules, the High Court of Karnataka has permitted 12 couples to opt for surrogacy through donor female gametes.

"It is trite law that a form cannot control the Act or the Rules, and if permitted, it would be akin to permitting the tail to wag the dog," the court observed while pointing out that the form takes away the right of the eligible couple to undergo gestational surrogacy using donor gametes even though the Act and Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 permit use of donor gametes.

Though the High Court came to the conclusion that the clause (1)(d) of Form No-2 of the surrogacy regulations, amended with effect from March 14, 2023 (allowing surrogacy using both gametes from the intending couple only and not through donor gametes) as "blatantly contrary to law", it refrained from declaring the amendment as illegal, as the issue of legality of the amendment is pending before the apex court.

The court said imposing such a condition in the form is contrary to rules. FILE PHOTO

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing petitions filed by 13 couples, who had questioned the legality of the March 14, 2023 amendment made to Form-2, and sought permission to have a child with donor female gamete. All the petitioners were qualified for surrogacy prior to the amendment made to Form-2.

'Died dreaming of motherhood'

A 37-year-old petitioner-woman died during the pendency of her petition, dreaming of motherhood, the court noted.

All the 13 women petitioners, who had approached the court along with their spouse, had one similar medical condition – that their female gamete (oocyte) cannot be used along with male gamete (sperm) of their spouse in the in vitro fertilisation (IVF) method for creating an embryo to be implanted into the surrogate.

The restriction in the amended clause in Form-2 had comes in their way of having a child through gestational surrogacy using donor female gamete as their medical condition did not favour use of their own female gamete. "The fertilisation of a donor oocyte by the sperm of the husband" was allowed in clause 1(d) of Form-2 prior to the amendment.

Other conditions

Noticing that the apex court had recently stayed the applicability of this clause in respect of a couple and allowed them to apply for surrogacy provided they fulfil other conditions as per the law, Justice Nagaprasanna said that in the light of the peculiar quagmire and the impending urgency of every one of the petitioners and their medical condition, they would become entitled to opt for surrogacy through donor gametes.

"The authorities cannot insist or direct the petitioners that the donor gamete cannot be made use of by the intending couple. The authorities shall forthwith process the petitioners' applications, if any, and issue eligibility certificate or essentiality certificate, if the intending couple would fulfil all other conditions," the court observed.

'Conduct of Chitradurga special court judge in Murugha Mutt seer case amounts to contempt'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The conduct of the judge of the special court for Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases in Chitradurga district in issuing a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugarajendra Bruhan Mutt, "amounts to contempt of court for blatantly violating High Court's orders", observed the High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday.

The HC also questioned the conduct of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP), attached to the Chitradurga special court for filing a 'frivolous and mischievous' memo before the special court stating that the "seer is not appearing before the Special Court and the High Court had not permitted his appearance through video conference and sought issuance of NBW (VC)."

"It is not understandable how the SPP filed such a memo when the High Court, while granting bail to the seer on November 8,

had restricted the seer from entering Chitradurga till completion of the trial and had specifically allowed him to appear before the special court through VC," the High Court observed.

The High Court also questioned how the judge of the special court conducted the trial or proceedings on Monday (November 20) for securing the appearance of the seer based on SPP's memo and issued NBW when the High Court since June 19, 2023 had directed the special court to defer all the proceedings against the seer till the High Court decided seer's pleas against continuation of criminal proceedings.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while hearing applications filed on behalf of the seer questioning the legality of issuance of NBW. "The question is, not whether the accused is XYZ..., it is the orders passed by the High Court that is disobeyed in a manner that would become contempt of the orders," the HC said.

"If the direction [of the High Court] is that he [seer] shall not enter Chitradurga, it is not understandable how a NBW is issued securing the presence of the accused at the special court at Chitradurga. It is this action of the Presiding Officer [judge of the special court] that does not inspire confidence of the High Court and to say the least, is preposterous," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

Pointing out that the orders passed by the High Court were "thrown to the winds" by the judge of the special court, the High Court said that such "an act, on the face of it, subversive of judicial discipline." "To sensationalize a sensational issue should not become the order of the day, particularly of the concerned courts hearing such cases. The courts are governed by constitutional morality and not public morality. This principle is also given a go-by by the Presiding Officer [judge of the special court] which appears to be in an attempt to remain in limelight of a sensational issue," it found.

Inquiry against SPP

Meanwhile, the High Court directed the State Public Prosecutor to enquire about the bona fides of the SPP attached to the special court, Chitradurga, SPP's conduct in filing the memo completely contrary to the orders passed by the High Court, fix accountability in this regard, and submit a report to the High Court.

Summons records

Also, the High Court directed its registry to secure all the records of the two criminal cases against the seer from the Chitradurga special court immediately "as the special court conducted itself in a manner, which would become an act of contumacious contempt."

Legislators will be appointed to boards, corporations in first phase, says Surjewala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following uneasiness among the Congress party cadre and legislators over the delay in the appointment of heads to various government-owned boards and corporations, AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala held a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday at the party office here.

Randeep Singh Surjewala

Party sources said it was proposed to issue orders soon on appointing 25 MLAs and five MLCs as chairpersons of the boards and corporations in the first phase. The CM has said that legislators would be given first preference now and appointed as heads of boards and corporations, while Mr. Shivakumar was keen on issuing appointment orders to party workers and leaders. Two leaders have given a separate list of candidates, sources said. It was proposed to appoint party workers as members and heads of government bodies after the next year's general elections.

The Congress came to power about six months ago but has not yet made appointments to 80-odd boards and corporations. Many legislators and party leaders have expressed their disappointment in the delay in the appointments.

Mr. Surjewala, who is in-charge of polls in Madhya Pradesh, after talks with leaders on November 1, had said another 4-5 rounds of talks would be held on appointment of legislators and party workers to boards and corporations.

World Fisheries Day

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the World Fisheries Day programme on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

DKS rubbishes porn film screening allegation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rubbishing Janata Dal (Secular) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy's allegations that he screened porn films in cinemas he operated earlier, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said he would quit politics if the charges are proved.

Asking the former Chief Minister to go to the Kanakapura Assembly constituency personally and check with the people about his involvement in any such activity, the Karnataka Congress chief called Kumaraswamy 'a frustrated man'. Speaking to presspersons at his residence in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Mr. Kumaraswamy is becoming a laughing stock with his baseless allegations. Kumaraswamy is casting aspersions without any basis. People are watching all this and are laughing at him. It won't do him any good".

Mr. Kumaraswamy had recently accused Mr. Shivakumar of earning a livelihood by screening 'blue films' at cinema tents (halls) run by him at Doddaalahalli (Shivakumar's native place) and near Sathanur in Kanakapura.

"Kumaraswamy is growing desperate by the day. Let him go to Kanakapura constituency and ask the people, including his own party workers, if D.K. Shivakumar is screening any immoral movies in his theatres. If the people hold me guilty, I will retire from politics. If you are unable to prove your allegations, what will you do?" he challenged. "The words of a former Chief Minister must have a certain decorum," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st Death Anniversary

KABIRDAS MADHAVAN
(04th MAY 1969 - 22nd Nov 2022)
Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday, we cherish your memories and miss you dearly.
Deeply mourned by
Mrinalini, Devika, Malavika, Family & Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Smt. G. KAPILUBAI
(Retd. R.L.O. Chennai)
(W/o Late. **P.V. Govinda Rao**)
Valasaravakkam
You are always in our hearts and remain our greatest source of strength.
Shivaji, Amarnath, Sanjay & Family

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

INDIRA RAJAGOPALAN
BORN: SEPTEMBER 7, 1944 - PASSED: NOVEMBER 21, 2023
DEEPLY MOURNED BY:
HUSBAND: R. RAJAGOPALAN (EX-WIDIA)
DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW: JAYANTHI & PARTHA ANBIL
SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: RAGHAVAN RAJAGOPALAN & TEJAL RAGHAVAN
SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW: ARAVIND & VIDYA RAJ
GRAND CHILDREN: KAMINI, TANISH, AKANSHA, MAYA AND NIKITA

DEATH

Smt.Shyamala Murugesan
W/O (Late) C.R.Murugesan
Passed away on 21st Nov 2023. Cremation on 22nd Nov.2023 at 10.00 am @ Nungambakkam Chennai Crematorium, Opp Loyola College.
CM Rathnasabapathy, CM Ramesh
9840096000 / 9884226376

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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'Poster politics can lead to skirmishes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the Congress was indulging in 'poster politics' on the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, JD(S) leader and former legislator A. Manjunath on Tuesday warned that it could lead to street fights between workers of two parties if action to prevent such incidents was not taken.

"The Congress has been indulging in poster politics in recent times to spread misinformation and defame H.D. Kumaraswamy. There is an effort to misguide people. Not every Congress leader is involved. This is being done by Dy.CM D.K. Shivakumar and his followers," Mr. Manjunath told presspersons here. "The Congress workers pasted PayCM posters overnight during BJP's tenure. After Mr. Kumaraswamy raised questions on people's issues, they are pasting posters on him in poor taste. If they stick one poster, we can stick 10."

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT
I.T.C.C.NO.CI /1564/2023 **IT CELL**
Re - E - TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for the following work by S.E (Electrical) in Two Cover System as per details furnished below
Purchasing of toners for HP / Samsung model printers available at various locations of Greater Chennai Corporation for a period of one year
Value of work in Rs.3,43,98,612/- | E.M.D Amount in Rs.3,43,986/-
Bid document will be available in web site https://tntenders.gov.in
Last date and time to submit the filled in tender document : 06.12.2023 upto 03.00 P.M
Tender opening date and time : 07.12.2023 at 03.15 P.M
DIPR / 6158 / Tender / 2023
Superintending Engineer (Electrical)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai - 600 028. Tel: 044-29864447
Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT)
(Roc.No. 10988/2023/P1, Date : 17.11.2023)
1. Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for **6 numbers** of infrastructural works in **6 Corporation/ Municipalities** in Tamilnadu, under **Kalaignar Nagarpura Mempattu Thittam (KNMT) 2023-24.**
2. The minimum value of single package ranging from is **Rs.2220.00 lakhs** and the maximum value is Rs.**5549.00 lakhs.**
3. The details of tender can be obtained from web portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
4. The tender document can be downloaded from **23.11.2023** to **22.12.2023** from the E-tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
5. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **01.12.2023** at **11.00 A.M** in the concerned Corporation/Municipal office.
6. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading /submission of filled up tender is upto **3.00 P.M** on **22.12.2023.**
7. The tenders will be opened through online at **3.30 P.M** on **22.12.2023** at the office of concerned Corporations/ Municipalities.
8. The value of each work, the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the eligibility of bidders can be had from tender document.
DIPR/ 6144 /TENDER/2023
Director of Municipal Administration, Chennai - 600 028.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/13/2023-24 Dated: 21-11-2023
Karnataka Public Procurement Portal TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through KPPP by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For Viveka Yojane Grant, MP & KPS Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 14-12-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2207/ Adverto/2023-24

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No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1/AEE-2/2023-24/11496-99 Date: 21-11-2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said tenders on lumpsum and TTK Basis in HESCOM jurisdiction.

Sl. No	Particulars	Bid indent No
1	Construction of 11kV link lines from New/existing Substations in HESCOM jurisdiction.	HESCOM/2023-24/ EL/ WORK_INDENT94 to 96 (3 packages)
2	Replacement of 16Mtr-I Beam poles of existing 33KV Rural Drinking water supply line by M 6 DC towers in O&M Division HESCOM, Gadag under Total Turnkey Basis	HESCOM/2023-24/ EL/WORK_INDENT97

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in after **22.11.2023.**
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Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli

A case for urban farming in the city

Many Bengalureans are discovering the allure of urban agriculture, taking pleasure in getting their hands dirty for better access to more nutritious food, and reducing environmental impact

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Brijinder Kathuria remembers being conflicted between growing more organic food or planting more forests for a long time. "A lot of deforestation happens because people chop off forest land to farm," says the Bengaluru-based Brijinder, a passionate eco-enthusiast who works in the technology sector. Then, he stumbled upon permaculture farming, a way of creating synergetic, sustainable agriculture systems that closely resemble natural ecosystems–in short, you're making food forests. "That hit the sweet spot," says the former hotelier, who went on to cultivate a food forest with perennial plants like bananas, coffee, coconut and jackfruit on his 5000 sq ft plot, enough to sustain himself for anywhere between 1.5 to 2 months, he says. "Freshly plucked food takes taste a new level," says the former hotelier, who admits to always being drawn to fresh food and ingredients.

Like Brijinder, many Bengalureans are discovering the allure of urban agriculture, taking pleasure in getting their hands dirty, for many or all these reasons: better access to more nutritious food, creating communities, reducing environmental impact, managing mental health and connecting to nature. As a recent publication by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), the result of a three-year-long research project titled *Sowing Sustainable Cities* points out, "urban and peri-urban agriculture is gaining in popularity and impact, and can become a critical strategy for transitioning towards sustainable urban futures."

So, where does Bengaluru stand as a city when it comes to creating urban foodscapes? What are the inherent advantages offered by this former garden city when it comes to cultivating green spaces? What challenges do city slickers face when it comes to growing their own food? And how does succeeding in doing so change their relationship with the food on your plate and the earth

from where it springs? This is what the city's urban farmers have to say.

Farming and the city

"It is difficult to kill a plant in Bengaluru," says Sheetal Patil, a senior research consultant at IIHS who was part of the research project. The soils, she points out, are fertile, while the weather is favourable throughout the year for growing."The weather is not extreme," agrees agri-scientist and entomologist Dr. Rajendra Hegde of Garden City Farmers, a city-based trust founded by the late B.N. Viswanath, which promotes urban farming. The humidity and number of rainy days in the city are also favourable for gardening, says Dr. Rajendra, adding that today, lakhs of people have food gardens in the city.

"We can grow things all through the year here," says Bengaluru-based artist Suresh Kumar G., the founder of Sarjapura Curries, a city-based community farm that seeks to revive forgotten native plants and

Urban farming helps people connect more deeply with their food and nature .

weeds. Moreover, as he points out, the city has always had an active garden culture right from the days of Hyder Ali. "The British experimented in Lal Bagh, too," says Suresh. "It made sense to grow vegetables here."

Not surprisingly, there is a large, well-connected gardening community in the city who "chat, exchange ideas and take pride in how good their garden is," says Sheetal. "Seeing and following some of the practices is inspiring." Dr. Rajendra, whose organisation has played a pivotal role in increasing awareness about the practice through workshops and lectures, says that there are today over 25 terrace gardening groups in the city, each having a minimum of 50-60 members. "They meet every month, share information, purchase materials for gardening together, and so on," he says.

The city's agro-climatic zone, cosmopolitanism and sprawl have also played a role in driving the movement, believes Shameek Chakravarty of Farmizen, a farm-to-fork marketplace that connects organic farmers to consumers which, among other offerings, allows you to rent a mini-farm to grow your own food. "There are some nice peri-urban farms that are very accessible since the city has been growing," he says, adding that many small farms are also found inside the city. And yes, it helps that the awareness and interest around health is high in Bengaluru. "If you go to a party in Mumbai, everyone is talking about real estate. But if you go to a party in Bengaluru, they will be talking about intermittent fasting," says Shameek with a laugh. "This also has a role to play," he believes.

The city's agro-climatic zone, cosmopolitanism and sprawl have also played a role in driving the movement

Terrace farming.

Why garden

Urban farming isn't just about growing your own food. "It is about expanding our imagination," says Siddharth Lakshman, Partner, Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC), who has been deeply involved in developing the hydroponics, aquaponics and permaculture food forest at BCC.

"Agriculture is not just about yield but about creating ecosystems you can learn from, appreciate and experience," he says, pointing out that it is also about participating in a natural cycle where nothing is wasted and the output of one system becomes the input of another. Composting is a great way of recycling waste such as dried leaves, kitchen waste, fruit peels, and coffee grounds is a great source of plant nutrition. "Composting is an easy and complementary activity."

Similarly, it can also be a great way of recycling water. "You should not be using drinking water for gardening; use grey water," says Dr. Rajendra, who has also actively been involved in Oota from your Thota (OfyT), a regular event held all across the city for gardening enthusiasts. According to him, urban gardening ensures cleaner, more nutritious food, promototes greenery and fosters biodiversity. "It provides an opportunity for children to learn and elders to spend time in the garden," he says.

It also is a way to drive awareness about a more sustainable, healthier lifestyle. "No one bothers if you tell people that their lake is getting polluted. But if you tell people that there is zinc in their palak or some other chemical in their cabbage, they will be more conscious," says Suresh, an opinion shared by Shameek.

"People who home garden are more sensitised as a family," he says, pointing out that growing one's own food offers people the chance to take control back to a certain extent, giving food the importance it deserves. "If you take care of your food, you will spend less on hospital visits."

Challenges and solutions

Admittedly, the average person foraying into urban farming for the first time can find the process challenging. Pest and disease are a problem, as is labour scarcity, availability of resources and simply awareness about how to start.

Akshayakalpa Organic's CEO, Shashi Kumar, who has long championed the need for sustainable agricultural practices and cleaner food, agrees that the high setup costs, lack of experience, expert guidance, time, and awareness can act as a deterrent. "Integrating farming into academic curricula from a young age is essential, fostering skills and awareness," he says. Shashi firmly believes that addressing challenges in sustainable living requires collective action and governmental intervention.

"Communities should unite for larger shared spaces, urging the government to enforce rules mandating adequate space, rainwater management, solar energy utilisation, and restrictions on cars per home, emulating successful practices like those in Australia."

It helps, he says, that innovative approaches such as aquaponics, hydroponics, vertical and rooftop gardening, microgreens, and technology-integrated solutions are gaining popularity for their space efficiency and water conservation. Additionally, in-situ composting has become more accessible, complemented by community garden initiatives where apartment residents collectively participate in urban farming and composting.

"This collaborative effort promotes sustainable practices and nurtures a shared responsibility for environmental well-being," says Shashi.

6th Edition of IKFF, presented by School Cinema

Meghnavi Ravuri
BENGALURU

The International Kids Film Festival (IKFF) brings its 6th edition to Bengaluru on November 23 at the ASC Centre and College. IKFF, titled a "first-of-its-kind", is a global film festival presented by School Cinema and organised by LXL Ideas. The festival features 75 award-winning children's films from 20 countries in 15 languages, hosted from November 14 to November 30 by schools across India.

IKFF presents opportunities to children by showcasing films and hosting online workshops to teach children the various characteristics of filmmaking and holding the World's largest student filmmaking competition to provide a platform for young filmmakers to exhibit their talents, winners represent India as Jurors at partner festivals.

IKFF 2023 partners with International Festivals including Busan International Kids & Youth FIlm Festival (BIKY), South Korea, Giffoni FIlm Festival, Italy, Children's Film Festival Seattle and Providence Children's Film Festival, USA. The festival invites people from across the world as Jury members with personnel such as Alexandros Kostopoulos, Director/ Screenwriter from Greece, R Balki, Filmmaker from India and MArie-Pauline Mollaret, Head of Short Films Committee at Cannes Festival, France.

With 9000 schools in 20 countries hosting IKFF in 2019, the film festival aspires to use Film Pedagogy to present children with the magic of international films, using it as a means of education. The Festival Director of IKFF and MD, LXL Ideas, Syed Sultan Ahmed says that, "Visual storytelling is an essential life skill in a world dominated by audio-visual content. Very few kids get an opportunity to participate in film festivals.

So, we at LXL Ideas came up with a simple idea: if 'Kids don't go to film festivals, let's take the festival to the kids.' This idea gave rise to IKFF, a school-based film festival." Hence, the festival made its way to India with 7.5 million students participating from 26,000 schools across the country.

IIIT-B to host Geoscience and Remote Sensing symposium

The conference is aimed at providing a platform for sharing knowledge and experience on recent developments and advancements in geoscience and remote sensing technologies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) is hosting the 2023 IEEE India Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (InGARSS 2023) from December 10-13, 2023.

The symposium, which is third in its series, is a research conference for remote sensing and geoscience researchers and practitioners.

An IEEE GRSS (Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society) regional conference, it is organized by the society's Bengaluru chapter.

The conference is aimed at providing a platform for sharing knowledge and experience on recent developments and advancements in geoscience and remote sensing technologies, particularly in the context of earth observations, and disaster monitoring, relevant to the Indian subcontinent, and others.

The International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore.

The programme will see plenary keynote talks, research paper presentations, doctoral colloquium, tutorials, community events, industry presentations, and exhibits. It would feature also space technology events in co-operation with international space agencies such as NASA/JPL, ISRO/NRSC, ESA, and DLR.

The opening ceremony of the event on December 10,2023 would feature Dr. Sanghamitra Bandhyopadhyay, Director, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, as the chief guest.

"Dr. Bandhyopadhyay's presence reinforces the significant place of machine learning and artificial intelligence in the geoscience domain," said a release from the event organisers.

The plenary keynote talks will be delivered by Dr. Harini Nagendra, ecologist with Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, Dr. Armando Marino, University of Stirling, UK, and Mr. Rashmit Singh, CTO, Satsure, Bengaluru.

Dr. B. S. Daya Sagar, Head, ISI Bengaluru Campus, Dr. Avik Bhattacharya, IIT Bombay, and Dr. Jaya Sreevalsan Nair, IIIT-B would serve as the general chairs of the conference, and Dr. Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT-B, as chief patron.

Dr. Mariko Burgin, IEEE GRSS President and affiliated to NASA/JPL, and Dr. Shiv Mohan, IEEE GRSS India Liaison would be the guests of honour at the inaugural ceremony.

Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, NRSC, will be representing ISRO for the space missions event.

Cultural event including art performances, debates, and quiz, will also be there. Sponsored by Government of Karnataka's Machine Intelligence and Robotics (MINRO) Center at IIIT-B, Satsure, Mphasis F1 Foundation, Galaxeye, NRSC, HALG, and TIH IIT Tirupati (IITTNiF), the conference has also received grants from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and ISRO.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1973

Urs Walks Home from Vidhana Soudha

Bangalore, Nov, 21: After a meeting of the State Cabinet at the Vidhana Soudha here to-night, the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, dispensing with his Mercedes Benz, walked back of the distance of about a mile to his official residence. Mr. S.M. Krishna, Industries Minister, has already been using a bicycle for the purpose, following a steep hike in petrol price.

Earlier at the Cabinet briefing, Mr. Urs told newsmen that he could utilise profitably the time taken for walking by talking to the people who came to see him. He said pressmen could join him if they felt like doing so.

Procedure for Recruitment of Local Candidates

Bangalore, Nov, 19: The Karnataka Government has laid down certain procedures to be followed in making appointments to Class III posts under the Civil Services Direct Recruitment to Class lll Posts (Special) Rules issued recently.

According to the procedure laid down, the Divisional Commissioners will prepare separate lists of local candidates for each category of posts received from the appointing authorities in the order of their seniority. The lists should be reviewed every week to include the names of all retrenched local candidates reported during the preceding week. Candidates from such lists should be allotted in order of seniority and reservation of vacancies to other departments as and when requisitions are received from the appointing authorities.

Stroll into the foodies' playground

The upcoming Food Nerd Festival in Bengaluru promises an exciting line-up of chefs, brand experts, and more

Nidhi Adlakha

Bengaluru's food circuit has always been much-talked about, more so over the last couple of years given the many new formats the city's entrepreneurs have been experimenting with. Think specially curated tasting menus, farm-to-plate experiences, and the many pop-ups hosted almost every weekend. The latter has brought chefs from across the country to Bengaluru and showcased their culinary magic to the city that is always open to try new experiences.

A culmination of all this has now led to The Food Nerd Festival that will bring together everyone from chefs and small business owners to food photographers, authors, among others. All set to be held this weekend, the organisers – food media house, Goya Media, and food/design collective, Edible Issues – say the event has "been a dream to host". "We have been dreaming of doing a version of this festival for a long time," says Anisha Oommen, co-founder and director of Goya Media, "In 2021, we came together to throw the first Food Nerd Party, our annual Christmas party, to say thank you to all the people we've worked with through the year. 2022 was bigger, more exciting, and the party became a space where knowledge sharing happened organically, and plans for collaborations and future projects were made. So this year, we decided to create a space dedicated to this magic unfolding," she says of the festival happening this weekend.

Conversation starters Glimpses of the Food Nerd Party 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

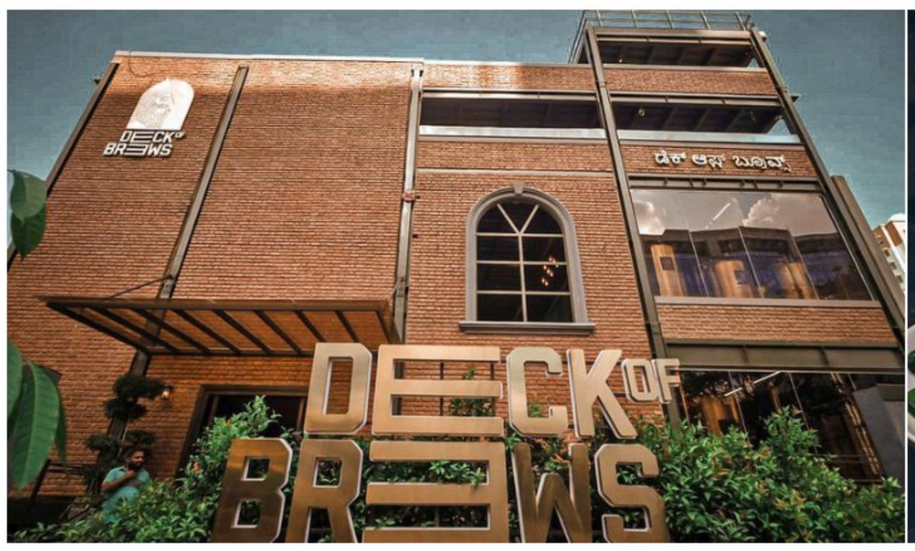
Anisha explains how Goya works extensively with small businesses in the food and alco-bev space, and "the questions they ask us is what this festival has been built on". "For instance, how do we get our first 1,000 customers; how do we build storytelling into our brand; how can we scale or is it better to stay boutique? For the Food Nerd Festival, we reached out to people who are experts on these very subjects, and we wanted to create a platform where the community could have access to them." Comprising workshops, discussions, a market, among other features, the event will bring together the likes of Chef Thomas Zacharias (of Locavore), Kainaz Messman of Theobroma, pastry Chef Pooja Dhingra (Le 15 Patisserie), Matt Chitharanjan, the co-founder of Blue Tokai, Anirudh and Anvesh of Brik Oven, among others in the culinary world. Food aside, personalities such as illustrator Alicia Souza, Diaspora Co's Sana Javeri Kadri, PR consultant Radhika Misra, etc. will discuss topics linked to brand building.

The festival is a space where knowledge sharing happens organically, and plans for collaborations and future projects can be forged

"We have an interesting lineup of different food businesses," explains Anusha Murthy of Edible Issues, that she founded with Elizabeth Yorke. Chennai's popular cheese brand Käse is collaborating with Bengaluru-based bakery Loafer & Co, Malgudi Mylari Mane will host their first-ever pop-up in the city, Coimbatore's chocolate brand Soklet will retail their patisserie range, among others. "For the Food Nerd After Hours (the after-party), we're headlining a collaboration with Pooja Dhingra and Vinesh Johny from Lavonne for the very first time in the city," she says of the party where you can expect a hot chocolate bar, and cocktails by Godawan, Tanqueray London Dry and Talsiker.

Another highlight at the two-day festival is Food Nerd Labs that will feature four hands-on workshops themed on 'Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat'. "The culinary workshops are exciting as well for those who want to improve their culinary creativity and skills. The four sessions have exciting topics from cheese and chocolate pairing to kombucha to meat curing and chili tasting," says Anusha.

On November 24 and 25 at Courtyard & Conservatory, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru. Details on foodnerdfestival.com



Deck of Brews
Hits:
Spinach corn cheese dumplings, tiramisu, royal tea
Misses:
Potato sliders
Wallet factor:
A meal for two costs ₹1,500 approx. with taxes

EATING OUT

Beyond pub grub

Swathi Nair

Playing host to a crowd of techies from three nearby IT parks – Cessna Business Park, Prestige Tech Park and Ecoworld around Kadubeesinahalli, Deck of Brews knows what it is doing.

Inspired by the concept of a deck of cards, Deck of Brews offers multi-level seating with long tables, creating a welcoming environment for team outings, corporate lunches, and evening gatherings with colleagues.

The architectural design incorporates niches that allow groups to enjoy an private and intimate atmosphere. Upon closer examination of the menu, which features both typical bar bites, it may initially appear to be just another brewery in north Bengaluru, offering the usual pub fare – fries, burgers, pizzas and pastas – alongside a Telugu culinary experience for those seeking a hint of spice with their beverage.

And just when you expect the ordinary and engage in casual conversation over a typical lunch, the spinach corn cheese dumpling makes its appearance, looking like it is on the guest list of Anna Wintour's annual Met Gala dinner.

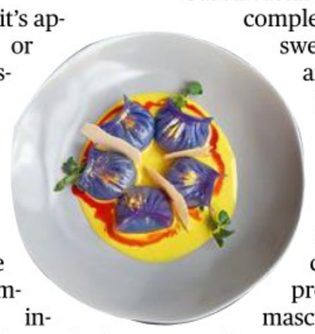
Eye candy Some of the specials at Deck of Brews. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For starters, someone's really thought of the colour scheme on the plating – five neatly pleated purple dumplings with a gentle gold wash, assemble in a coconut milk based sauce – with a yellow that contrasts the purple, the gold shimmer and the red drizzle of chilli oil that turns into a pop of orange against the yellow sauce.

Next up are the chlorophyll croquettes, resembling a refined version of the *hara bhara kebab* in both appearance and taste.

These croquettes are coated with crispy fried vermicelli, akin to a Gujarati *sev* roll, but with an indulgent layer of crisp *sev* coating. They are generously crowned with a dollop of sour cream and vegetarian caviar - some charcoal frozen with agar agar balls.

In terms of Telugu cuisine, the menu offers dishes such as *miriyala mamsam vepudu*, Andhra chili chicken, and *karivepaku chicken vepudu*, all served in generous portions, ensuring a fiery and spicy representation of Andhra flavours.



Whether it's appetisers or main courses, the portion sizes are substantial. I would suggest seeking the staff's recommendations instead of picking typical choices such as vada pav, pizza, and pasta.

While my personal experience with pizza and pasta orders was less remarkable, the mini vada pavs were decent at best. I believe you might miss out on the restaurant's true culinary gems if you stick to the usual, standard pub fare, as I initially did.

With the cocktails, as well, presentation is everything. "Women usually order cocktails here so the attempt is to make it look as attractive to them as we can," says Prafulla.

The smoked bourbon has a lovely smoked spice aroma and the gin based royal tea is exactly that, but prettier with a rose petal coating on the rim, red flowers and silver pearls.

Their craft brews range include Belgian wit bier, weissbier, golden ale, Munich helles lager, American IPA and imperial stouts.

And if you are still missing that pretty image of the Met Gala chic dumpling, then the desserts will up that ante.

The royale biscoff serradura is a traditional Goan bisquiti with a cream-based custard swirl on top, complemented by sweet crackers and crushed bisquiti all around.

As for the tiramisu, it has layered ladyfinger cookies, espresso, and mascarpone cheese, served on a bed of coffee chocolate sand, crowned with a chocolate honeycomb, and accompanied by a coffee-forward ice cream on the side. I was almost hesitant to disrupt the plating design, but I'm pleased I did because the taste truly lived up to the visual masterpiece.

So, in dessert lingo, it's a sweet ending that's as good as it looks.

When chocolatier's kitchens beckon

Universal indulgence The event will feature over 33 Indian chocolate brands. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nidhi Adlakha

The last few years have seen India's craft chocolate industry evolve exponentially, giving rise to several new players in the market. Their exclusive offerings are now stiff competition for commercial chocolate brands, and this is just the beginning. If you would like to know more about this industry, and meet the people behind India's craft brands, head to the upcoming Indian Cacao & Craft Chocolate Festival.

Helmed by Patricia Cosma, a bean-to-bar chocolate consultant and connoisseur from Romania, and Ketaki Churi, a chocolatier, chocolate maker and product developer from Mumbai, it will bring together everyone from cacao farmers, industry professionals, to brands and chocolatiers.

"When I came to India in 2018, I had no idea of the chocolate industry here. I learned about the cocoa farms, and started visiting them and conducting experiments," says Patricia, who believes the flavour profiles of Indian cacao are "very different" when compared to commercial brands in the West. Therefore, she kickstarted the festival to build a community of craft chocolate in India.

"I want it to be similar to the growth trajectory of specialty coffee in India. Coffee and chocolate are similar markets. I also want people to be aware of craft chocolate: its health benefits, how it supports farmers, and ethical production methods," she adds.

This year, over 33 brands such as Bon Fiction & Farm, Chitra'm, Paul & Mike, Chocolate Philosophy, Nari & Kage, Brightland, Cocoa Town, Kuruvinakunnel Farm, Local Ferment, Rakaudella, Sapa, Subko, Ulo, Plume Delicacies, Naviluna, among others will bring their specialty creations. Also in the works are a range of collaborations between artisanal makers and chocolate brands.

"I am excited about Sapa's collaboration with Anuttama and Bon Fiction, Ulo Ice Cream with Subko Cacao, Kuruvinakunnel Farms and Manam, among others. Via these collabs, we are seeing interesting products that aren't available in the market," elaborates Patricia.

As for the workshops, she says the team has tried to bring in more elements this year. For instance, a wine and chocolate pairing session by Trippy Goat Cafe. Other sessions include Cacao in Your Everyday Life on its health benefits, Craft Chocolate Flavour Innovation, The Alchemy of Fermentation, among others.

November 25 and 26, at Bangalore International Center, Domlur II Stage, Bengaluru. For tickets (₹250), and day passes (upwards of ₹4,599) visit indiancraftchocolatefestival.in.

CITYBEATS

Roasted perfection

ON GOING
Coffee and tea lovers can now head towards Roastea, which has opened yet another outlet in Bengaluru. This new cafe, besides offering a cosy interior that can seat 40 people at a go, also serves a range of beverages and food.
This is Roastea's fourth outlet in the city in keeping with their aim to, "serve finest culinary experience blending with 'gharwali chai' and 'coffee'".
At Phoenix Mall of Asia

South East Asia on a plate

ON GOING
Sriracha celebrates a decade of its operations in Bengaluru with a new menu, which serves up cuisines of Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. Some of the dishes you can look forward to are: bun cha from Hanoi, lau pa sat from Singapore and banh mi from Vietnam.
There will also be khmer bean thread salad and pandan on the menu.
At Sriracha, Vittal Mallya Road

An ode and a celebration

NOVEMBER 25, 5.30PM
Sursagar in association with ICCR, Bengaluru presents *Unsung Kishori* by Raghunandan Panshikar as part of its 41st anniversary. Ragunandan will present Amonkar's unheard bandishes, bhajan, abhangs and ghazals. The artiste will be accompanied by Milind Kulkarni (harmonium), Rohit Kulkarni (keyboards), Vinayak Netke (tabla) and Abhijit Bhade (side rhythm). Entry is free.
At Canara Union, Malleshwaram

Sankara Nethralaya founder Badrinath passes away at 83

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Dr. S.S. Badrinath

S.S. Badrinath (83), founder of Sankara Nethralaya and eminent vitreoretinal surgeon, passed away on Tuesday. He had been ailing for a while. He is survived by his wife Vasanthi Badrinath, a paediatrician and haematologist and two sons, Anant and Seshu Prasad.

A Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr. Badrinath completed his MBBS from the Madras Medical College in 1962, after which he did his graduate studies in ophthalmology from the United States Grasslands Hospital, New York University Postgraduate Medical School and the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Infirmary until 1968.

In 1978. Dr. Badrinath founded Sankara Nethralaya as a unit of the Medical Research Foundation, an institution that came to define state-of-the-art eye care and affordable treatment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among many leaders to pay condolences. "His contributions to eye care and his relentless service to society have left an indelible mark. His work will continue to inspire generations," he posted on X.

Fraught political atmosphere marks 'Navakerala Sadas'

DYFI attacks Youth Congress workers for staging a black flag protest against Pinarayi; clashes erupt between police and YC workers as they try to march to LDF's public outreach programme venue

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan greeting the crowd at the Navakerala Sadas in Kannur Assembly constituency on Tuesday.

Frayed political tempers marked the fourth day of the LDF government's public outreach programme, the 'Navakerala Sadas', in Kannur district on Tuesday.

An alleged Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) attack on Youth Congress workers who staged a black flag protest against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's motorcade in Kannur on Monday appeared to have vitiated the State's political atmosphere. The fraught situation showed no sign of abating, with the Congress threatening to pit MLAs and MPs at the forefront of the street protests against Mr. Vijayan.

KPCC president K. Sudhakaran warned that Congress workers would impede Mr. Vijayan's progress across the State and resist the CPI(M)'s "thuggery" on the street.

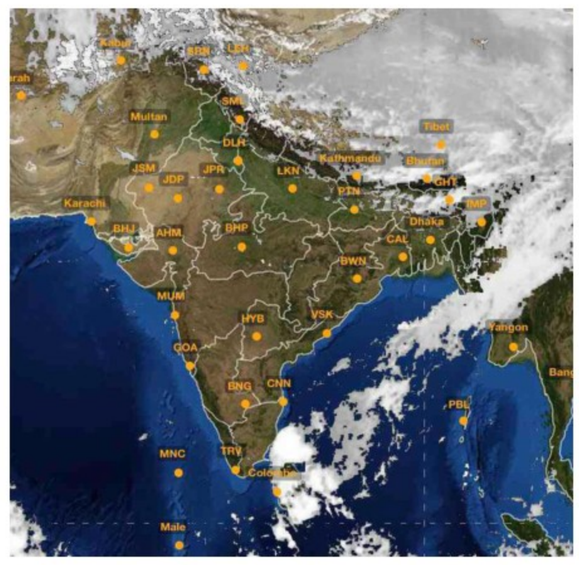
CPI(M) and Congress leaders portrayed the incident in starkly different terms.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said DYFI workers had saved a Congress worker from committing a "suicidal act" by attempting to throw himself in front of the bus ferrying the Cabinet. He lauded their effort to prevent such life-threatening daredevilry, further infuriating the Congress.

Meanwhile, clashes erupted on Tuesday between the police and Youth Congress (YC) workers attempting to march to the venue of the 'Navakerala Sadas' near the Kannur Collectorate. The march was organised following the attack on YC workers who waved black flags at Mr. Vijayan. The Pazhayangadi police have registered a case against 14 DYFI workers for assaulting YC members.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.8	21.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	32.7	21.8	Kurnool	—	32.6	24.0
Aizawl	0.2	24.5	17.8	Lucknow	—	27.6	14.1
Allahabad	—	29.5	16.5	Madurai	—	34.4	24.1
Bengaluru	—	27.4	20.4	Mangaluru	—	33.4	23.4
Bhopal	—	30.3	16.6	Mumbai	—	35.6	24.2
Bhubaneswar	0.1	27.7	20.1	Mysuru	—	32.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	27.3	13.3	New Delhi	—	26.2	11.5
Chennai	6.6	26.1	25.0	Patna	—	28.8	17.6
Coimbatore	—	33.5	24.6	Port Blair	—	31.8	26.3
Dehradun	—	27.4	10.9	Puducherry	—	31.4	24.7
Gangtok	—	17.9	12.4	Pune	—	30.3	19.2
Goa	—	34.5	22.6	Raipur	—	31.4	19.7
Guwahati	—	31.4	17.5	Ranchi	—	26.8	14.3
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Shillong	—	18.2	11.6
Hyderabad	—	29.0	21.1	Shimla	—	19.4	8.8
Imphal	—	20.2	14.7	Srinagar	—	13.5	-1.2
Jaipur	—	27.4	15.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.2	25.5
Kochi	—	32.0	26.2	Tiruchi	—	32.7	24.0
Kohima	—	22.0	9.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	23.6
Kolkata	—	30.3	23.0	Visakhapatnam	5	27.8	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..10	...8	...222	...159	
Bengaluru	...7	..32	.26	...165	...106	
Chennai	.14	..54	.45	50	48	
Delhi	.14	..78	.64	...427	...374	
Hyderabad	...3	..32	.59	80	...105	
Kolkata	.11	..72	.23	...143	...115	
Lucknow	.10	..47	.82	...268	...178	
Mumbai	..—	..32	.52	...209	...141	
Pune	124	191	111	...237	...136	
Visakhapatnam	.15	..38	.42	43	56	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Churu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 404 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

A.P. moves top court against Naidu's bail

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against the grant of regular bail to former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu by the State High Court 24 hours ago in what it termed as a "mini-trial" held in the skill development 'scam' case.

The State said the High Court judgment, in a bail matter, had "delved deep into facts of the case and rendered findings that were not only factually incorrect but are also likely to prejudice the court below during the trial".

The petition, represented by advocate Mahfooz A. Nazki, said the Supreme Court had itself deprecated the practice of lower courts going into a detailed elaboration of evidence in bail orders.

"The High Court has not only conducted a mini trial but has also completely erred rendering findings which are completely contrary to the record... The court must not undertake meticulous examination of the evidence collected by the police or order specific tests," the State argued.

It said the bail court needed to only follow the triple test – if the accused would likely abscond or influence witnesses or tamper with evidence – to decide whether or not to grant bail to an accused.

The State claimed that Mr. Naidu had used his influence to "facilitate" the flight of two associates, Manoj V. Pardasany and Pendyala Srinivas, to the UAE and the U.S. immediately after the duo had received notices in relation to the investigation of the scam on September 5, 2023.

Hearing of Naidu's bail plea in IRR case adjourned

VIJAYAWADA
The Andhra Pradesh High Court has adjourned the hearing of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's anticipatory bail petition in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) alignment case to November 23.

Photojournalist of *The Hindu* attacked

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Award-winning special news photographer of *The Hindu*, Hyderabad, Nagara Gopal, was attacked here on Tuesday by an electronic media stringer and his aides following an altercation over covering an event. The lensman sustained a severe bleeding head injury and was hospitalised.

The incident occurred around 1 p.m., after the conclusion of a BJP election meet of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Vayupuri.

The accused, Mahesh Goud and Mr. Gopal entered into an argument while negotiating for space at the venue to photograph the event.

Based on a complaint, the police have arrested the accused and registered a case under IPC Section 307.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 74th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S. NO. 25221/2023 Hg 08.12.2023

Between
ICICI Bnak Limited
Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068. Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa B ...Plaintiff
And
Sri Shamal K V
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri Shamal K V,
S/o Sri Chandran,
Aged about 41 years, No.10, 4th Cross, Nagamma Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560032

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 6,42,537/ (Rupees Six Lakh Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 74th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 75) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **08.12.2023** at **11:00 A.M.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **10-11-2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560047

IN THE COURT OF THE 57TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25216/2022 Hg : 05/01/2024

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its registered office at Mythree Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Debt Collection Manager and Sri Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Lingabathini Yehoshuva
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. Lingabathini Yehoshuva,
S/o. Mr. Raju Lingabathini,
Aged about 33 years,
R/at Flat No. 212, Arjun Mahateja Apartments, Marathahalli Sy. No. 90/5, Site No. 7, In front of Ground, Bangalore- 560 037

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 8,30,655/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only)** together with interest **@ 11.25% p.a.,** cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH-58)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on you on **05/01/2024** at **11:00 A.M.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **16/11/2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S.A. Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT GAURIBIDANUR
O.S. No. 95/2021

Plaintiffs: Sri M.N. Bhramhananda and others
- V/s -
Defendants : Sri Daranendra Jain .N and others

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that the plaintiffs have filed a suit on O.S. 95/2021 in this Court seeking the relief of legitimate 1/3rd share in the plaint schedule property mentioned below.

If you
(2) Bramhananda @ Bramhdeva S/o Late M.D. Nemirajaiah, Aged about 48 years.
... Defendant No. 2
(4) Prakash Jain S/o Late Rajanna, Aged about 54 years
... Defendant No. 4
(5) Smt. Veena D/o Late Rajanna, Aged about 50 years
... Defendant No. 5
(6) Pradeep Jain S/o Late Rajanna, Aged about 48 years
... Defendant No. 6

All residents of Kurudi Village, Hosur Hobli, Gauribidanur Taluk, Chickballapura District, Karnataka State, India have any interest in the schedule property are required to appear before this Court **at 11 a.m. on 08-01-2024** without fail in person or through their/his/her counsel as the case may be along with necessary documents in their favour. If you fail to appear before the court, you have NO interest in the above matter, the court will held you ex-parte in the matter and proceed with the suit further.

SCHEDULE

All that part and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 9 to Gauribidanur Tq. an extent of 13 acres 06 gt. including phut kharab 00.14 gt. situated at Gollahalli Village, Hosur Hobli, Chikballapura District, Karnataka State, India and bounded by: **East:** Land Ramamani W/o Krishnachari; **West:** Land of Gangappa S/o Obalappa and Ramaiah S/o Donne Ramappa; **North:** Land of Manjunatha S/o Thimmaiah; **South:** Land of K.M. Malle Gowda S/o Muddumallappa and K.M. Narayanappa S/o Muddumallappa.

Given at my hand and Seal of this court on 07-11-2023 at Gauribidanur.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge and JMFC Court
Gauribidanur

Place: Gauribidanur
Date: 21.11.2023

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

SITUATION VACANT

MEDICAL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS for general information that I was previously known as Rupali Pawar D/o Mahadev Pawar R/o 187/1 B1 Sri Manjunath swamy nilaya sudduguntepalya Bangalore –560093 and after undergoing Gender Transition therapy under the supervision of registered medical practitioner in Bangalore, I have changed my gender as male, I henceforth be known as Jaydev Pawar, S/o Mahadev Pawar, R/o 187/1 B1 Sri Manjunath swamy nilaya Sudduguntepalya Bangalore –560093, Rupali Pawar and Jaydev Pawar S/o Mahadev Pawar is one and the same person. It is certified that I have compiled with other legal requirements in the connection.The above statement made by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief,if any legal issue arises in this regards at any stage, I will be personally responsible for the same and the department of publication will not be liable as for any consequences therefore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LUKE NINA R/at 105, Bangalore – 43 have changed my name from LUKE NINAN CHERUKARETH to LUKE NINAN for all future purposes by affidavit 20–11–2023 Notary Udaykumar.K

TENDERS

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.
Head Office: Nafed House, Siddhartha Enclave, Ashram Chowk, Ring Road, New Delhi-110014
Ph.: EPABX- 26340019 (8 Lines)
Fax: 011-26340261
Website: www.nafed-india.com

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5th Floor, ICOMC Tower, Bhoi Nagar, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar-751022.
E-mail Id : bbsr.bscl@gmail.com, CIN : U74990OR2016PLC020016
Telephone - 0674-2548428 ; Fax - 0674-2540811

No.2233/BSCL/56/2023 Date : 20.11.2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR PARKING MANAGEMENT & CFMS OF MULTI- LEVEL CAR PARKING, ASHOK NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR.

M/s. Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), Bhubaneswar invites sealed proposals for **Selection of Agency for Parking Management & CFMS of Multi-Level Car Parking, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar.** The details of Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the website of BSCL i.e. **www.smartcitybhubaneswar.gov.in**. Interested agencies may submit their proposals in a sealed cover super-scribing as **"RFP for Selection of Agency for Parking Management & CFMS of Multi- Level Car Parking, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar."** with advertisement number and Date to the General Manager (Admin), Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited, 5th Floor, ICOMC Tower, Bhoi Nagar, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar-751022 through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier services only, which should reach on or before **3.00 P.M on 30.11.2023** positively and the same will be opened at **3.30 PM on 01.12.2023**. Proposals received after the due date and time shall be rejected. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof. For any queries you reach through email:**bbsr.bscl@gmail.com** or telephone:**0674- 2548428 / 2540811.**

By order of Managing Director
General Manager, Bhubaneswar Smart city Limited

C-1887: OIPR-13070/11/0017/2324

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CAD-2941 : OIPR-30005/11/0184/2324

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/1488 Date : 18.11.2023

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On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 740 CALL (2) 662 CALL 2 (3) 508 CALL 3 (4) 536 CALL 3 (5) 678 (6) 689 (7) 715 CALL 2 (8) 764 CALL 2 (9) 773 CALL 3 (10) 771 CALL 3 (11) 769 CALL 3 (12) 1057**

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **24.11.2023 & 27.11.2023 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **26.11.2023 & 29.11.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **28.11.2023 & 01.12.2023 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **Double cover : 6 months (180 days)**

DIPR/SMG/No.81-11 zenkar/2023-24

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

A BG-BGE

Alarming countdown

All nations must strive for net zero carbon emissions

The title of the United Nations' latest report, Broken Record, is a clever pun. Not only does it suggest that previous warnings of the consequences of rising greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are being ignored but also that new ceilings are being breached. The annual emissions report, usually timed close to the beginning of the climate talks, reiterates in sharper language that progress, since the Paris Agreement (PA) of 2015, has been tardy. The stated goal was to keep temperatures from rising over 2°C, and 'as far as possible' below 1.5°C, of pre-industrial levels. In the last few years, much of the consensus has been that we should be directing all our efforts towards keeping it below 1.5°C. The Broken Record report, however, suggests that accounting for all commitments made by countries, as per the PA, to minimise their economies' reliance on fossil fuel, temperatures would still result in an overshoot of 2.5°C-2.9°C by the end of the century. To keep temperature below 2°C, emissions by 2030 must be cut 28% and for 1.5°C, they need to be shaved by 42%. Despite many countries having promised to be 'net zero,' meaning no net carbon emissions, the report does not think these promises are 'credible' and even in the most optimistic scenarios, the likelihood of keeping emissions below 1.5°C are 14%.

However, it is not as if the PA has been infructuous. GHG emissions in 2030 based on policies in place were projected to increase by 16% at the time of the adoption of the PA. Today, the projected increase is 3%. To keep temperatures below 1.5°C, annual emissions must reduce every year, until 2030, by 8.7%. What the report says is that the world collectively emitted 57.4 billion tonnes in 2022, an increase of 1.2% over 2021. The pandemic saw 4.7% drop in emissions but the projections for 2023 suggest that the globe is nearly back to pre-pandemic emission levels. The consequences of the globe's tardiness are writ large. As of October this year, 86 days were recorded with temperatures over 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. September was the hottest recorded month ever, with global average temperatures 1.8°C above pre-industrial levels. In terms of solutions, the report repeats sage advice that has been offered for years: the richest countries and those historically responsible for gobbling sparse atmospheric capacity for carbon must commit to greater and faster reductions. While legalese and nit-picking have been characteristic of climate summits, precious little time remains for the world to get its act together.

Parochial law

States need to implement labour rights uniformly and not rely on protectionism

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has done the right thing by quashing the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 that provides for 75% reservation to State domiciles in the private sector in jobs that provide a monthly salary of less than ₹30,000. The court stated that it was beyond the purview of the State to legislate on the issue and restrict private employers from recruiting people from the open market. It also held that the Act was violative of equality guaranteed under Article 14 and freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution. The court said that by allotting 75% reservation for "locals", the Act militates against the rights of citizens of the rest of the country, and that such acts could lead to other States coming up with similar enactments, in effect putting up "artificial walls" throughout India. It argued that the Act was imposing unreasonable restrictions on workers' right to move freely throughout the territory of India. The court termed the requirements on private employers stipulated in the Act as akin to those under "Inspector Raj".

Other States such as Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have also enacted similar legislation. The Andhra Pradesh High Court observed that the State's Bill, passed in 2019, "may be unconstitutional", but it is yet to hear the case on merits. Workers move to other States seeking job opportunities that are relevant to their skills and abilities. If States build walls and impose restrictions that prevent job seekers from other States from accessing opportunities, citizens of poorer States will have to eke out a living within their own regions. This will affect the economy of the entire country. While legislation that seeks to reserve blue collar jobs for locals is problematic and unconstitutional, there is a reason why there is resentment among locals in better-off States over their jobs being taken up by "migrant" workers and which has compelled their governments to come up with knee-jerk protectionist measures. There are more than a few private employers who exploit the migrant labour market as such workers tend to work long hours for low wages with little or no social protection and benefits. This creates a segmentation of the labour market with low-wage migrant workers on the one side and local workers with better bargaining power on the other. If States are truly concerned about protecting workers' rights, they should ensure that migrant workers in all establishments enjoy basic labour rights that are legally due to them, thereby creating a level playing field for all workers. This will also be a curb on exploitative practices by employers. Protectionism in the labour market is not the answer.

How the BJP juggernaut chugs along

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

Unlike the first spell of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has consciously anchored itself to a deeper foundation of political legitimacy, beyond the prosaic imperatives of holding on to political power. Over the last decade, the wider political culture of the country has undergone a thorough process of making and un-making. The political scholar and activist, Yogendra Yadav, had provocatively captured this palpable phenomenon as the "unveiling of the second Indian republic". There are, of course, scholarly disputes about the nature and extent of such stated political transformation. In the midst of a crucial round of State elections, and before the national elections, one might revisit certain questions afresh.

BJP dominant or Modi dominant?

First, can the present political system be characterised as a dominant party system; and if so, can it be more accurately characterised as a BJP dominant system or a Narendra Modi dominant system? Second, how robust and sustainable does the present structure of political dominance appear from a historical perspective? Some political scientists, such as Adam Ziegfeld, have articulated reasonable doubts over the BJP's claims to dominance. They say that unlike the Congress's geographical spread under Indira Gandhi, the BJP's spread still substantially excludes southern and eastern India. The much-vaunted BJP electoral machine has been unable to dislodge a regional incumbent in State elections outside of the so-called Hindi belt. At present, the party does not possess a State government in any southern State and in a large swathe of eastern India (Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha). Also, unlike the Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru, the NDA has also not fulfilled the gruelling test of regime longevity (a rough rule of thumb being three consecutive terms).

Nevertheless, few might contest the fact that the present majority coalition led by the BJP commands more robust popular support than what the Congress enjoyed in the latter half of the 1980s under Rajiv Gandhi. Between 1985 and 1990, the Congress suffered dramatic reversals in its previous strongholds of Assam, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. In the words of the political scientists Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph, the rise of regional parties in crucial States and the consequent de-legitimisation of the old centralised Congress system had "reduced Congress' ability to win the super-majorities that had enabled it to be [the] dominant party for so long". Thus, the Rudolphs held the 1989 election loss as both anticipated and much in line with a broader trend of party decline caused by the "cancer of party de-institutionalisation, launched by Indira Gandhi, and not addressed by Rajiv Gandhi".

> The lack of a clear ideological alternative provided by the Congress and the conflict bubbling under the surface of the INDIA coalition show that the BJP is still powering along with ideological steam

In contrast, one can gauge sharp discontinuities and ambiguities in the political picture gleaned from this round of State elections. While the BJP appears to be struggling in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, and hardly appears to be decisively ahead in Rajasthan, a State known for its 'revolving door' trend, a heavy dose of caution is warranted before extrapolating this to a national trend.

In 2019, the BJP's victory had largely rested on landslides in north, west, and central India, often exceeding a stupefying 50% vote share. A recent CVoter survey asked voters of poll-bound States to rate their satisfaction with the work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. In Rajasthan, 60% claimed to be very satisfied, with 17.4% exhibiting no satisfaction. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, there were high levels of satisfaction with the national government (roughly 58% each) and low levels of strong dissatisfaction (22% and 17%, respectively).

This is a far cry from the last years of the Rajiv Gandhi government, when the tumultuous Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the onward march of the rural-centric Other Backward Classes (OBC) parties had resulted in the evisceration of public support for the Congress in northern and central India. The present phase bears no similarity to the 1988-89 period, when the Congress coalition was reeling under allegations of corruption, declining support, and intra-party tussles.

Absence of strong State leaders

Arguably, however, the over-centralised nature of the BJP party machinery has weakened State units, reminiscent of the follies of the Congress of an earlier era. The BJP's reversals in several State elections in recent years stem in large part from the absence of strong, credible leaders. This weakness of State leadership is partly a result of the lack of intra-party space afforded to powerful State leaders such as Shivraj Chouhan, Vasundhara Raje, and Raman Singh.

Combing through data from past surveys of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and Axis My India, the political analyst Amitabh Tiwari recently sought to quantify the 'Modi factor' in national versus State elections. In national elections, Mr. Modi's leadership was claimed to be a decisive factor in the BJP vote by a large section (roughly between one-quarter and one-third of all respondents in the last two elections). However, in almost every State election, only around 5% explained the Modi effect as a vote choice (the only exception being Uttar Pradesh where it was reported to be a decisive factor for 10.2% of respondents). According to the political scientist Atul Kohli, Rajiv Gandhi had harmed his own party by hoarding political capital within his own charismatic leadership, and not divesting decision-making power to State-level leaders. Thus, Rajiv Gandhi had failed to institutionalise political support within the structures of the Congress party organisation. Can a similar fate befall the BJP under the centralised reign of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah?

The indefatigable BJP engine

It is hard to provide any pre-determined answer to that question. This is because, as this writer had argued two years ago (along with the political scientist Rahul Verma), the present BJP system of dominance can be more accurately defined as a BJP dominant system rather than a Modi dominant system. In other words, more of an ideologically pre-figured ethnic-majoritarian coalition rather than one based on any singular charismatic personality. One can provide two pieces of supportive evidence from the present configuration of the political dynamics at large.

The first is the lack of a clear ideological alternative provided by the Congress in States where it is in a straight contest with the BJP. In this round of State elections, the State Congress leadership (particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) has consciously anchored itself to (and thus again legitimised) the ideological mainstream of Hindu nationalism. Indeed, Congress stalwart Kamal Nath declared in as many words that India is already a *de facto* Hindu Rashtra. This proves that the BJP has established itself not just through the remoulding of institutional arrangements, but also through the decisive charting out of the dominant ideological mainstream. This unchallenged Hindutva-inflected political culture has contributed in large part to the sustenance of the Modi charisma. Second, conflict is bubbling under the surface of the INDIA coalition between Mandal parties and the Congress. These two political forces together comprise the primary opponent to the BJP in almost half of all national seats. Their latent (and sometimes open) conflict testifies to the many constraints thwarting efforts to fuse together a coherent ideological platform, particularly on thorny issues such as sharing political ownership of the caste census agenda. The intensity of these skirmishes are liable to increase with (potentially) a growing realisation of being dragged into a zero-sum fight over a stagnant pool of the anti-BJP vote.

Moreover, the Opposition shows a lack of political imagination in connecting welfare promises and caste-based slogans to the larger questions of the political economy. Both the BJP's and Congress' socio-economic agendas often appear to be an undistinguishable potpourri of 'freebies' and 'handouts. Thus, though support may be frayed around the edges, the engine of BJP dominance chugs along, still powered by its long-gestated ideological steam.

Recognising the impact of climate change on health

Rajeev Sadanandan

is CEO, Health Systems Transformation Platform

Pranay Lal

is Senior Advisor, Health Systems Transformation Platform

As India gets ready for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), it is important to examine how climate change affects the country's health. India's inadequate health systems make our population particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate risks on health. Climate change affects health directly, causing more sickness and death. In more indirect ways, it affects nutrition, reduces working hours, and increases climate-induced stress.

The precipitating factors continue to be unrelenting. One estimate suggests that if global temperature were to rise by 2°C, many parts of India would become uninhabitable. All nations during the Paris Agreement agreed to cap the rise in temperature at 1.5°C. Clearly, we have failed. The year 2023 saw the highest temperatures and heat waves in recorded history. The situation is likely to worsen for the planet. Climate emergencies – extreme heat, cyclones, floods – are expected to occur with increasing regularity. These will interfere with food security and livelihoods and sharpen health challenges.

Double burden

The double burden of morbidity that India faces from communicable and non-communicable diseases will be worsened by climate change. It could facilitate the growth of vectors such as mosquitoes, sandflies, ticks, and as yet unknown ones, and change the seasonality of infection through changes in their life cycle. It could also facilitate the introduction of vectors and pathogens into areas where they did not exist before, such as mosquitoes in the Himalayan States. Heat also alters the virulence of pathogens. Reduced availability of food and water and the decrease in nutritional value of food increases vulnerability to diseases. Epidemics commonly occur after floods, but extended warm periods also promote the proliferation of water and food-borne pathogens and diseases.

> As climate change continues unabated, it could worsen India's double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases

Less well recognised is the impact of climate change on non-communicable diseases and mental health, both of which are poorly managed in India. Heat, physical exertion, and dehydration, a constant state for labourers, could lead to kidney injuries, which are rising in India due to uncontrolled diabetes. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases are exacerbated by increased and extended episodes of air pollution. The risk of dying from pulmonary disease increases by 1.8-8.2% during a heat wave and hospitalisation rates will go up by 8% for every 1% increase in temperature above 29°C. Depression, aggravated by stress generated by the change in weather conditions, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder invariably accompany a climate emergency. These are rarely recognised in India, much less addressed.

India is urbanising at a rapid pace, in an unplanned manner. Urban areas, not tempered by urban greenery and open spaces and filled with asphalt roads and heat-retaining buildings that physically block air circulation, bear the worst ill effects of climate change due to the urban heat island effect. (Urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas, especially at night). Climate change puts further pressure on the weak urban primary health system, already suffering the ill effects of air pollution; urban planning that discourages physical activity; and work-related and cultural stress.

Mitigation efforts begin with understanding the direct and indirect pathways by which climate change impacts health and assessing the burden. Currently, the health information systems are not modified to gather this data. Since the impact is accentuated by socio-economic conditions, having systems in place for social support and health services will reduce the impact. But the benefits from upstream interventions that focus on better urban planning, green cover, water conservation, and public health interventions will be much larger – not only for health but for many determinants of health.

Action at all levels

Action to control climate change needs to happen at global, regional, and local levels. Pathways of climate change and their impact will determine the appropriate area of intervention. To achieve this, India has to recognise climate change and its impact on health as a problem that can be and needs to be addressed. Researchers who work in this area need to come up with policy options for action. National, State, and local governments have to decide to act on the policy options that have been generated by research. Only when the three streams of problematisation, policy options, and political decision-making come together is meaningful change likely to happen. It will be worthwhile to examine if these necessary conditions have been satisfied before expecting a change in the status quo on climate change and its impact on health.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Awaiting rescue

The co-ordinated approach in rescuing the 41 workers trapped in the tunnel in Silkyara gives hope ("In Uttarkashi, rescue teams manage to install six-inch pipe to send food," Nov. 22). When this is over, the incident should be studied in detail so that a similar episode and delays in evacuation do not occur.

Baiju Benjamine
Kollam

The last hurdle

India truly had a dream run in this World Cup until the last match ("End of a dream run", Nov. 21). The fact that the ICC's Team of World Cup features six Indian players is an indication of the team's strength. Though we lost the finals, Rohit Sharma's team can take pride in what they gave us fans: pure happiness for 45 days.

Bhargava Reddy
Prakasam

The 'us and them' syndrome, endemic in politics, has also seeped into sport. On October 14, when India played against Pakistan, the crowd in Ahmedabad booed the Pakistani players and shouted expletives. During the final too, fans barely acknowledged Travis Head's century and also booed the umpires. There can be spirited competition, but derision, parochialism and hatred are all corrosive. Our sporting reputation needs repair. Prestigious events must be held only where decorum can be expected.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Rebuke from the court

It was reasonable for the Supreme Court to rebuke the Governor ("Governor can't withhold re-passed Bills," says SC, Nov. 21). The Governor has been abusing his constitutional power by constantly refusing to give his assent to Bills. An exasperated Tamil Nadu government rightly approached the Court. It is hoped that the Governor does not refuse to grant assent yet again — the government cannot keep approaching the Court just to get Bills passed.

D. Sethuraman
Chennai

A polarised society

The former Home Secretary of the U.K. should have toned down her rhetoric on immigrants and homelessness ("A former Home Secretary and her dangerous legacy," Nov. 20). Suella Braverman's remarks are unacceptable. Homelessness is never a choice for anyone. Her detachment from reality is frightening. She may no longer hold the post, but her remarks show just how polarised Britain has become and how much hatred lurks beneath.

Balagopal Gopinath
Alappuzha

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

India, Japan converge in Southeast Asia

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President for Studies and Foreign Policy at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi.

Don McLain Gill

is lecturer at the Department of International Studies, De La Salle University (DLSU).

Upon dropping a series of Chinese-led infrastructure projects due to sustainability and geopolitical concerns, the Philippines is now redirecting its attention to Japan and India as alternative sources of development and security. Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista reaffirmed this earlier this month when he noted that the Philippine government is willing to tap both countries for development assistance. This statement intersects with Manila's desire to deepen and broaden its security and economic partnerships with like-minded partners amidst Beijing's growing unwillingness to act and behave like a responsible neighbour.

Under the leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Philippines has been steadfast in securing its sovereignty and sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea against China's revisionist interests in the Indo-Pacific. Moreover, at the heart of Marcos Jr.'s foreign policy lies the intent to work closely with like-minded traditional and non-traditional partners. Accordingly, Manila's attribution of both Tokyo and New Delhi as important partners allows all three democracies to explore new opportunities for multi-faceted strategic cooperation.

The Philippines and Japan share a close strategic partnership, with the former being Manila's major investor and its largest source of overseas development assistance (ODA). While the partnership traditionally functioned in the context of the United States hub-and-spokes system, bilateral ties are now displaying significant momentum as an independent force, with Tokyo seeking to play a more prominent security role. The historic visit of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to the Philippines marked a turning point in the trajectory of bilateral ties. From being the first recipient of Japan's overseas security assistance (OSA) to formalising negotiations for a reciprocal access agreement (RAA), the meeting between Marcos Jr. and Kishida paved the way for a "golden age" in the Philippines-Japan strategic partnership, which has the makings of more regularised military-to-military engagements.

Similarly, the bilateral partnership between the Philippines and India has witnessed noteworthy advancements as Manila is now more willingly incorporating New Delhi in its strategic calculations. The past few months witnessed essential milestones in the burgeoning bilateral relationship, encompassing the visit of Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo to New Delhi and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Philippine and Indian Coast Guards, which will allow both sides to improve their interoperability, intelligence sharing, and maritime domain awareness. More recently, India has also offered to supply the Philippine Coast Guard with seven indigenously manufactured helicopters based on a soft loan agreement with extended payment terms. This potential agreement also comes at the heels of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile delivery to the Southeast Asian country later this year.

Thus, Japan and India's bolstered engagements in Southeast Asia complement the interest of resident countries like the Philippines to lessen their susceptibility to China's expanding economic clout and deepening power projection capabilities. Forging robust ties with friendly regional powers is crucial to Southeast Asian countries' hedging strategies, especially as the U.S.-China competition continues to intensify. In fact, based on the authoritative State of Southeast Asian Survey of 2023, Japan and India are the top two choices of Southeast Asian countries for alternative Indo-Pacific strategic partners. Therefore, the contemporary structural conditions serve as an opportunity for Japan and India to operationalise their shared vision for the Indo-Pacific.

The India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is best defined through the robust ties they share. In terms of security, New Delhi and Tokyo constantly engage in varied platforms ranging from regular bilateral military exercises and two-plus-two meetings to multilateral frameworks such as the Quad and the G20. Both countries share similar threat perceptions – an increasingly assertive and disruptive China.

Beyond defence cooperation, New Delhi and Tokyo have also embarked on a third-country cooperation model in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. In 2017, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his former counterpart Shinzo Abe welcomed collaborative efforts in establishing industrial growth and development networks across Asia and Africa, creating the Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). While the project eventually slowed down due to geopolitical turbulence and the economic constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, both countries have recently explored new third-country cooperation models throughout the region. Among them are the emerging trilateral partnerships between India, Japan, and Bangladesh and a similar framework between India, Japan, and Sri Lanka.

Accordingly, as India is significantly deepening and broadening its ties with Southeast Asian countries, such as the Philippines, New Delhi should consider taking its third-country developmental model with Tokyo into the sub-region of the greater Indo-Pacific at a time when resident countries are looking for alternative sources of development and security amidst the polarising dynamics of the U.S.-China power competition.

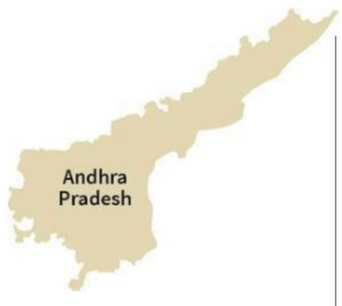
The conditions are prime for the two countries to operationalise their shared vision for the Indo-Pacific

A wake up call for APSRTC

The transport machinery is in dire need of reform and restoration

STATE OF PLAY

P. Sujatha Varma
pothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in



Two accidents in quick succession involving buses belonging to the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) fleet on November 6 call attention to the maladies that have been obstructing the smooth functioning of the public sector giant.

One Monday morning, three people were crushed under a bus that crashed into platform number 12 at Pandit Nehru Bus Station. Two others were injured in the incident. The same night, another State-owned bus from Hindupur depot rammed into a few vehicles, killing one person on the spot and critically injuring two others, near the Collector's office in Anantapur.

Every such accident is a notice that something is wrong with men, methods or materials. The APSRTC is no exception. Maladies like fund crunch, shortage of staff and infrastructure have not allowed the State bus network to grow fast enough to cater to the ever-increasing volume of passengers, a fact that came in handy for private bus companies to deploy their services illegally even in routes earmarked for operation of the State buses.

Challenges abound. The immediate one is to steer the troubled Corporation out of its financial woes. Officials at the helm have had to devise innovative policies to shore up the revenues and their attempts showed positive results. The revenue losses accumulated by the APSRTC over the years are on a declining trend. From ₹6,445 crore of losses in 2019, the amount has come down to ₹3,275 crore now.

The APSRTC management also pays 25% of its monthly revenue to the government as part of the revenue-sharing agreement reached at the time of the merger of its 51,488 employees with the government. Ironically, the merger, seen by the RTC employees as a panacea for all their problems in the past, has turned into a sore point now. Soon after, the government announced its decision to scrap facilities like the Staff Retirement Benefit Scheme (SRBS) and Staff Benevolent Trust (SBT), and bus pass provision.

Alleging that workers are under duress, the Public Transport Department (formerly APSRTC) Employees Union has been urging the management to recruit drivers instead of relying on outsourced staff. The officials are learnt to have flagged up the issue, seeking permission from the government to recruit 4,000 drivers. The union leaders, however, say there is an immediate need to induct around 10,000 staff in various departments.

The transport wing workers also resent the inordinate delay in payment of arrears under various heads. Payment of their leave encashment has been pending for the past three years, gratuity fund has been stopped for the deceased, retired and medically unfit employees who were asked to retire, since January 2020, and night shift and overtime allowances have also not been paid since September last year. The employees are also waiting for payment of DA arrears for 18 months.

Restoration of the old system of medical services through a chain of referral hospitals is what the employees are insisting on. They now come under the State-sponsored Employees Health Scheme (EHS) and do not find it as satisfactory as the earlier system.

Pitted against the odds, the State Transport Corporation has been operating a fleet of 10,904 buses (8,246 RTC buses and 2,658 hired buses) from its 129 depots across the State with a daily volume of 40 lakh km, carrying 40 lakh passengers every day. The APSRTC vehicles connect 14,123 villages on the 1,423 routes in the State and the current daily revenue of the State-owned transport corporation is ₹15 crore.

Officials at the helm have struggled over the years to do a balancing act. The government's obligation as the basic service provider stands in the way of increasing fares while a private sector player does it overnight to keep afloat. The officials see as a double whammy their inability to hike ticket fares and having to deal with the burden of the ever-increasing fuel prices and the huge manpower costs.

Though the officials realise the dire need to increase the size of the RTC fleet, their hands are tied. The fact that the area-wise operations by RTC buses have shrunk from 40 lakh km in the past to 38 lakh km now is a cause of serious concern for them.

The government needs to take a long, hard look at the issues and initiate policy-level reforms to build a resilient ecosystem for the State transport sector to thrive.

AC coaches rise at the cost of Sleeper and Second Class

AC coaches have rapidly increased in Central, Northern, and Western Railways, while not so much in the Southern and Eastern zones

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese
Sonikka Loganathan
Vignesh Radhakrishnan
CHENNAI

For some time now, the Indian Railways has been introducing AC coaches in trains by replacing either Sleeper or Second-Class coaches. In May, in four pairs of trains operating out of Mangaluru Central Railway Station, one Sleeper Coach each was replaced by an AC 3-tier Economy Class coach each. In September, in Bagmati Superfast Express, Rapti Sagar Superfast Express and Muzaffarpur Express, an AC 3-tier Economy Class coach was introduced in place of a general Second Class coach each.

These changes have serious implications as the probability of travellers reserving a ticket in Sleeper and Second Classes has come down, forcing them to either upgrade to AC coaches or make alternative travel plans. Those holding an unreserved ticket to travel in General Coaches also may find it tough to get seats. With a relatively smaller share of people able to afford the higher costs of AC coaches, and in scenarios where alternative arrangements are not possible, incidents of general ticket holders invading reserved compartments have become common.

A comparison of passengers carried in 2019-20 and a decade back in 2009-10, shows that the above examples are not exceptions but the norm. **Table 1** shows the % share of passengers carried by various classes of service – AC, Sleeper and Second in 2019-20 and 2009-10. The table also shows the difference (in % points) in the share of passengers between these two time periods.

For instance, in 2019-20, of all passengers carried by Indian Railways (including both reserved and unreserved), 7.8% were in the AC coaches, a sharp jump from 3.6% a decade back – an increase of 4.2 percentage points. The share of those who travelled in the Second Class reduced from 85.3% to 76.5% – a decrease of 8.7 percentage points.

The table also looks at the same data for only passengers who made a reservation. As the total row shows, the share of reserved passengers carried by AC coaches increased by 9.8% points while that of Sleeper Class decreased by 2.8% points and that of Second Class decreased by 6.6% points in the decade considered.

A zone-wise comparison shows that the share of AC seats rose sharply in the Central, Northern and Western Railways, while the rise in Southern and Eastern Railways was not that steep. When both reserved and unreserved passengers are considered, in the Central, Northern and Western Railways, the share of AC seats increased by over 5% points, while Second Class' share decreased by about 10% points or more.

Table 2 shows the average rate (in paise) charged per passenger per kilometre across various classes of travel in Indian Railways in 2019-20. The table also shows the difference in average rate (in paise) when compared to 2009-10. There is an 80 paise difference per passenger per kilometre between AC 3-tier coaches and reserved Sleeper Class in 2019-20. Moreover, the fare of AC 3-tier has increased by 33 paise per passenger per kilometre in the past decade, while that of reserved Sleeper Class increased only by 17.4 paise, validating the affordability concerns of travellers.

These changes were mandated due to the poor operating ratio of the Indian Railways – which worsened after the pandemic. Before the pandemic Indian Railways on average used to spend ₹98 to earn ₹100. In 2021-22, it spent ₹107 to earn every ₹100.

The reasons behind the Railways' move will be discussed in detail in the Data Point tomorrow.

Tracking the changes

The tables are based on data collated from the Annual Statistical Statements published by the Indian Railways in the years 2019-20 and 2009-10

Table 1 | Passengers carried in % and difference in % points

		Unreserved & reserved			Only reserved passengers		
Zone	Year	AC	Sleeper	Second	AC	Sleeper	Second
Central	2019-20	10.0	23.2	66.7	28.3	64.4	7.3
Eastern	2019-20	5.6	10.5	83.9	31.3	57.9	10.7
Northern	2019-20	9.6	14.7	75.7	37.2	56.7	6.1
Southern	2019-20	5.9	14.4	79.5	26.4	56.6	17.0
South Central	2019-20	6.8	16.5	76.6	26.7	63.8	9.5
South Eastern	2019-20	6.8	15.8	77.4	30.2	69.7	0.0
Western	2019-20	7.8	13.8	77.6	33.9	59.4	6.7
Total	**2019-20**	**7.8**	**15.5**	**76.5**	**31.2**	**60.3**	**8.5**
Central	2009-10	3.8	13.3	82.2	13.5	46.8	38.7
Eastern	2009-10	3.0	8.5	88.5	23.5	65.5	10.9
Northern	2009-10	4.2	9.8	86.0	28.5	65.8	5.7
Southern	2009-10	3.2	12.2	84.3	20.2	63.5	15.6
South Central	2009-10	3.3	13.0	83.7	18.9	74.9	6.2
South Eastern	2009-10	3.6	11.6	84.8	23.7	76.2	0.0
Western	2009-10	2.8	9.0	87.2	18.9	61.3	19.3
Total	**2009-10**	**3.6**	**10.9**	**85.3**	**21.3**	**63.2**	**15.1**
Central	Difference	+6.2	+9.8	-15.5	14.8	+17.6	-31.4
Eastern	Difference	+2.6	+2.0	-4.6	+7.9	-7.6	-0.2
Northern	Difference	+5.3	+4.9	-10.2	+8.6	-9.1	+0.4
Southern	Difference	+2.7	+2.2	-4.8	+6.1	-6.9	+1.4
South Central	Difference	+3.6	+3.5	-7.1	+7.8	-11.1	+3.3
South Eastern	Difference	+3.2	+4.1	-7.4	+6.6	-6.5	0.0
Western	Difference	+5.0	+4.7	-9.6	15.0	-1.9	-12.6
Total	**Difference**	**+4.2**	**+4.6**	**-8.7**	**+9.8**	**-2.8**	**-6.6**

Table 2
The table shows the average rate (in paise) charged per passenger per kilometre across various classes of travel in Indian Railways in 2019-20. The table also shows the difference in average rate (in paise) when compared to 2009-10

Class type	2019-20	Difference
AC First Class	267.3	+27.3
AC Executive	290.9	+47.1
AC 2-tier	166	+52.2
AC 3-tier	129.4	+33.1
AC Chair Car	164.3	+65.7
Sleeper Class reserved (Mail)	49.9	+17.4
Sleeper Class reserved (Ordinary)	46.6	+20.3
Second Class reserved (Mail)	42.5	+17.9
Second Class reserved (Ordinary)	28.6	+12.5
All reserved classes	77.5	+31.5

In the tables, AC class includes AC First tier, AC 2-tier, AC 3-tier and AC Chair Car. Sleeper and Second Classes include coaches in both Ordinary and Mail trains. Only non-suburban trains were considered for this analysis. And only seven Railway zones which have sufficient data were considered

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1973

Tape-Recorder Brought into Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Nov. 21.

The bringing of a tape-recorder into the Lok Sabha by the Jan Sangh leader, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, to-day touched off a spate of points of order and Mr. K. N. Tiwari ruled from the Chair that a tape-recorder could neither be played nor brought into the House.

Mr. Vajpayee had brought the gadget as "evidence" to prove his point that the police administration in Delhi was "very corrupt." He said the tapes contained the recording of the conversation which took place when a Central food squad raided a shop and a police party arrested them instead of helping them. The incident had taken place some time ago.

Mr. R. K. Khadilkar, who was then the Health Minister, intervened to recall that a magisterial inquiry had already been ordered into the incident and the police officer concerned had been transferred.

As soon as Mr. Vajpayee displayed the tape recorder, and wanted to play it, several Congress members objected.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi (Cong), on a point of order, asked whether a tape-recorder could be brought into the House.

Mr. Tiwari at first withheld a ruling on the point, but said firmly that he would not allow it to be played.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 22, 1923

The Sale of Gold.

BOMBAY, Nov. 21.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber has telegraphed to the Finance Department of the Government of India a strong protest regarding the proposed sale of gold from the Currency Reserve. The Chamber states it is opposed to sound Currency policy and constituted a breach of authoritative pronouncement that India had been put on a Gold Standard. It adds that no responsible Government in any country has ever attempted to make profit out of its Currency Reserve, although the temptation in the case of France and even of Britain is far greater. The Committee are of opinion that the proposed step is not meant in the interest of India, but in the interest of Great Britain in order to prevent a further flow of the world's gold to India and thereby steady crossrate with America.

From Page One

First visuals emerge of workers inside tunnel

The authorities are planning to place an 800-mm pipe inside the 900-mm one to provide more strength.

In Delhi, National Disaster Management Authority member Lieutenant-General Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) said efforts were being made on five fronts to save the workers. He said that two teams of the NDRF were at the site to deal with any contingency.

He maintained that there was no scarcity of oxygen inside the tunnel. "The two-km section of the tunnel, with completed concrete work ensuring the safety of the workers, is the focus of the rescue efforts. In this secured portion of the tunnel, electricity and water supply are operational, and provisions, including food and medicines, are being delivered through a dedicated four-inch compressor pipeline," he said.

Five agencies – ONGC, SJVNL, RVNL, NHIDCL, and THDCL– have been assigned specific responsibilities, working collaboratively with occasional task adjustments for operational efficiency. A five-point action plan has been chalked out for the rescue, including vertical drilling, excavating two escape channels/tunnels on both sides of the tunnel, and digging a tunnel from the other end, the Barkot side.

Anurag Jain, Secretary, Road Transport and Highway Ministry, said that vertical drilling was the "second-best option" for the rescue operation.

'Conflict in Manipur will stop if arms are recovered'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The commanding officer of the Army's Eastern Command on Tuesday said ethnic violence in Manipur will stop after 4,000 firearms looted from security forces in the State are recovered.

Speaking to presspersons, Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita said the Manipur conflict was a "political problem" and the armed forces have been focused on containing the violence and motivating the warring communities to take the route of peaceful resolution.

"The Indian Army's aim initially was to carry out rescue and relief operations for people displaced from their homes," he said.

"Thereafter, we have been trying to contain the violence and motivate people to accept a peaceful resolution. But because of the polarisation between the two communities, Meiteis and Kukis, sporadic incidents are continuing," Lt Gen Kalita said, insisting that Manipur's problem can be resolved politically.

"Although the level of violence has come down, more than 5,000 weapons taken from various police stations and other places are still in people's hands," he said. Adding, "Only about 1,500 weapons have been recovered."

SC calls for collaborative efforts to bring children into the adoption pool

The court orders States and Union Territories to begin a bi-monthly drive to identify children in the orphaned, abandoned, surrendered category in institutions, starting from December 7

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Saturday said that children living in childcare institutions whose parents had not visited them for over a year or had "unfit" parents or guardians should be identified and brought into the adoption pool.

The court defined an "unfit guardian" as someone who is "unable or unwilling for parenting, indulging in drug or alcohol abuse, known to have abused or neglected the child, having a criminal record, in need of care themselves, mentally unsound, etc".

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud turned its focus on a finding by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) that many children were living in institutions for over a year with undetermined legal status.

"All such children should be identified district wise in the category of 'unfit parents' or if their parents or guardians have not visited them in the last one year or more or vice-versa.

The court has directed the States and Union Territories to compile data on potential children for adoptions. GETTY IMAGES

The district functionaries should make collaborative efforts to bring more such children into the adoption pool," the court said in an 11-page order published late on November 21.

The court ordered the States and Union Territories to begin a bi-monthly drive to identify children in the orphaned-abandoned-surrendered (OAS) category in the institutions, starting from December 7, 2023.

The court also directed the States and Union Territories to compile data on potential children for adoption, especially among those languishing in the childcare institutions, and hand over the details to the CARA Director, and the Secretary with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, by January 31.

"It is imperative for the States to ensure registration of all OAS children in the district on the CARINGS portal," the court said. The Bench highlighted the "huge mismatch" between children available for legal adoption and the number of prospective adoptive parents according to CARA's online portal, the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System or CARINGS.

A State-wise breakdown of the figures provided by CARA, represented by Additional Solicitor- General Aishwarya Bhati, showed that 2,146 children were available for adoption as on October 28, 2023.

As opposed to this, about 30,669 prospective adoptive parents have been registered for in-country adoption as of October 2023. They have to wait for between three to four years for getting 'a healthy and young child' due to the huge mismatch in the number of registered prospective adoptive parents and children available for adoption, the order noted.

Further, it also emerged in court that out of 760 districts in the country, only 390 districts have specialised adoption agencies. Adding to these reasons for delay in the adoption process is the fact that prospective adoptive parents "prefer" children up to the age of two for adoption.

CARA's tabulation indicates that 69.4% of registered PAPs opt for children in the age group of zero to two years; 10.3% in the age group of two to four years.

Israel lists Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terrorist organisation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Israel on Tuesday listed Pakistan-based militant organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba as a terror outfit. An official announcement from Tel Aviv said the move is in sync with Israel's attempts to support a global war on terror.

"Despite not being requested by the government of India to do so, the state of Israel has formally completed all necessary procedures and has satisfied all required checks and regulations to the result of introducing Lashkar-e-Taiba into the Israeli list of illegal terror organisations," said the official Israeli announcement. The announcement comes in the backdrop of Israeli ambassador to India Naor Gilon's statement that Israel has been urging India to ban Palestinian militant group Hamas as New Delhi has not so far proscribed it.

"Lashkar-e-Taiba is a deadly and reprehensible terror organisation, responsible for the murder of hundreds of Indian civilians as well as others. Its heinous actions on November 26, 2008 still reverberate in force through all peace seeking nations and societies," said the announcement.

ED orders attachment of ₹752-crore assets in *National Herald* case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it had issued an order to provisionally attach properties worth ₹751.9 crore in an alleged money-laundering case involving Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), which runs the *National Herald* newspaper, and Young Indian.

The agency alleged that the then office-bearers of AJL and the Congress had cheated the company's shareholders and donors of the party. Responding to the development, which comes close to the Rajasthan Assembly election, Rajya Sabha member and Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told *The Hindu*: "It reflects the frustration and certain defeat of the ruling dispensation in the ongoing elections."

The ED, in a statement, said AJL was in possession of "proceeds of crime" in the form of immovable assets worth ₹661.69 crore in several cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, and Lucknow; and Young Indian to the tune of ₹90.21 crore as the equity shares of AJL.

At BRICS summit, Xi calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

All parties involved in the Israel-Palestinian conflict should immediately cease fire and suspend hostilities, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, addressing a virtual summit of BRICS leaders on Tuesday.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the summit after the latter decided to skip it, condemned the killing of civilians in the conflict, but stopped short of echoing the Chinese demand for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Mr. Xi called for a safe passage for humanitarian relief and pressed for an end to the forced relocation of the Gaza Strip's civilian population.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang to attend G-20 virtual meet

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China on Tuesday announced that Premier Li Qiang will attend the virtual G-20 Leaders' Summit at India's invitation, and hoped that the meeting will address global challenges through cooperation and make positive contributions to economic recovery.

The G-20 virtual summit on Wednesday will take forward key outcomes and action points firmed up at the annual conclave of the grouping in September under India's presidency, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said in a statement. he summit will also delve into the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Mr. Li will attend the meeting at the invitation of the Indian government, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, addressing the media here. "In the face of the volatile international situation and sluggish economic recovery, it is all the more important for the G-20 to reinforce partnership, address global challenges through cooperation and make positive contributions to world economic recovery and global common development," Ms. Mao said.

Rahul calls PM *'panauti'*; BJP says 'shameful and disgraceful' remark

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi created a flutter during his tour of Rajasthan on Tuesday by saying "PM means *Panauti* (bad omen) Modi" at an election rally at Baytu village in Balotra, insinuating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had brought back luck to India's cricket team, resulting in its defeat in the World Cup final match in Ahmedabad, which he attended on Sunday.

Mr. Gandhi said the match had been lost with Mr. Modi being in the stands. "Mr. Modi comes on television and says Hindu-Muslim. He sometimes goes to a cricket match. It was a different matter that the match was lost. Panauti... PM means *Panuti* Modi," he said, as the audience, largely comprising Congress workers and rural folk, laughed and clapped.

Ravi Shankar Prasad

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi had shared a video on social media of his interaction with the Indian cricket team members in their dressing room soon after their defeat.

While Prime Minister Modi observed in his post that India stood "with them today and always", the Congress leaders were quick to react that the video footage was choreographed.

The BJP slammed as "shameful and disgraceful" Mr. Gandhi's remarks.

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Mr. Gandhi's remarks about the Prime Minister of the country were "shameful, condemnable, and disgraceful".

"He has shown his true colours but he must remember as to how the Congress has sunk in Gujarat after his mother, Sonia Gandhi, called [Prime Minister] Modi, then Chief Minister of the State, a '*maut ka saudagar* (merchant of death)'," Mr. Prasad said.

He "vehemently condemned" Mr. Gandhi's comment, saying that such remarks were being made against Mr. Modi "out of frustration", apprehending the Congress's defeat in the Assembly election in Rajasthan.

'Rahul must apologise'

"Rahul Gandhi must apologise... Else, we will make this issue very serious," Mr. Prasad said, adding that the remarks have "shown his true colours as to what is [his] status and understanding."

Hitting back at the BJP in a post on X, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said: "These Godse bhakts, including Prime Minister Modi, who have regularly insulted Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi ji, Sonia ji and Rahul ji with the most vile abuses, are finding it difficult to digest the harsh truth."

Ministry asks States to encourage use of SATHEE portal

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

With the Joint Entrance Examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and other engineering colleges only 45 days away, Education Ministry officials on Saturday said they would write to all States to encourage aspirants to utilise the newly launched portal – SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) – for exam preparation. The online coaching platform has been launched by the Ministry and the IIT-Kanpur.

SATHEE is an open learning platform available to students free. "A barrier for students who could not pay to access any such training programme has been bridged now," S. Ganesh, Director, IIT-Kanpur, said.

SATHEE has launched a 45-day crash course for aspirants to test their level of preparation. "SATHEE hosts live and recorded lectures, expertly designed curriculum, and doubt-clearing sessions [for students] to brush up their knowledge," Professor Ganesh said.

Nearly 5,000 students have registered on the platform so far. The officials said the goal was to reach a lakh students.

The portal uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interact with students, and can be customised to each student's pace of learning. SATHEE's integrated AI chatbot helps students align their learning needs. "The initiative is in line with the National Education Policy, with the goal to provide inclusive, high-quality education even to remote parts of the country," Professor Ganesh added.

SATHEE is an open learning platform available to students at no cost.

Pan-India mock tests tests are held every weekend, with the same look and feel adopted by the National Testing Agency for conducting the JEE.

SATHEE hosts lectures and video content prepared by Professors and students of the IITs, and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). With National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled to take place in May, courses for NEET preparation will be hosted soon, officials said.

Currently, digital learning material is available on the portal in English, Hindi, Odisha, and Telugu.

Necessary to hear the farmer before making him a 'villain': Justice Dhulia

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia of the Supreme Court said on Saturday that it was necessary to hear the farmer before painting him as a "villain" who deliberately set his paddy fields ablaze to add his share to the toxic fumes hanging heavy over the national capital.

"You are all making him [the farmer] a villain. He is not a villain. He must be having reasons for what he is doing. He is the only person who can tell us why he is doing it. But he is not here... The 'villain' is not being heard. He should come," Justice Dhulia said.

The judge's remarks were in response to submissions by *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, in court, that 748 fires were lit across stubble-filled paddy fields in Punjab on Sunday alone.

Sudhanshu Dhulia

"The Punjab government says it is doing everything. But it is not visible on the ground," Ms. Singh said.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, the judge leading the Bench, said farmers who violate the law should feel the pinch.

"Despite court orders and counselling, for their two bit of money and no matter how the fires affect the environment, they do it... Why should people who violate the law benefit monetarily?" Justice Kaul asked.

He asked the Centre and Punjab why such errant farmers should be allowed to take the benefit of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy. But Justice Dhulia said MSP was a "sensitive issue".

"There is a representative of everybody here except farmers... Farmers must be here," Justice Dhulia said.

Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh informed the court that 8,481 meetings had been held with farmers across the State. The State has deployed 1,092 flying squads to prevent blazes.

"Somewhere, farmers have to understand the fallout of paddy cultivation... Whether there can be a policy by which you [the government] could discourage paddy and encourage other crops in Punjab... water is becoming scarce and the wells are running dry," Justice Kaul said, conveying anxiety about the future.

The court was informed that centres where farmers or their cooperative bodies could hire machinery at a heavy subsidy to de-stubble their fields without burning had been opened in Punjab and Haryana.

However, the court asked who would pay the cost of running and maintaining these machines.

APPEAL

I Subasri 5 years old hailing from a poor family, am suffering from Relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia and need Rs.5,00,000/- for treatment at Meenakshi Mission Hospitals & Research Centre., Madurai. Kindly help me to have a new life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospitals & Research Centre, Madurai** will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT (Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Subasri.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

BJP complains to EC against Congress ads

The BJP on Tuesday moved the Election Commission (EC) with complaints against the Congress, accusing the party of putting out advertisements in the form of a news article or opinion piece about a "wave" in its favour in the Assembly elections in Rajasthan.

A delegation from the BJP moved the EC with complaints against the Congress, also charging the party with resorting to "corrupt" practices by asking people to give missed calls on a mobile number to get benefits of its guarantees if it retains power in the State.

"The said advertisement is false, frivolous and wholly unverified, contrary to the facts and statistics available on record," the memorandum said. The BJP demanded strict action, including an FIR, against the Congress. It also sought action against the newspapers.

A BJP delegation after the meeting with poll panel officials in New Delhi. ANI

EC notice to BJP over posts against Kejriwal

The EC on Tuesday issued notice to Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva over social media posts by the party against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal which "violate" the model code of conduct.

On November 15, the EC issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Kejriwal over two X posts from the party handle, saying they were "derogatory", and built a "slanderous narrative" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Following this, the AAP had on November 16 filed a complaint with the poll body in which it had alleged that the posts on X and Facebook from the official handle of the Delhi BJP contained morphed images and videos with "malafide" intention to "ruin" the image of Mr. Kejriwal.

The AAP had accused the BJP of using illegal means to exploit its image and create a false propaganda in the public.

> Where there is Cong., there will be scams, deception and fraud. Whereas in BJP's rule, there will be progress and country will move forward
>
> **J.P. NADDA**
> BJP president

Repolling held at one station in M.P.'s Bhind

Repolling was conducted on Tuesday at a polling station in Ater constituency of Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district. The repolling had been ordered by Bhind Collector and Returning Officer Sanjeev Shrivastava following a complaint by the BJP candidate alleging breach of secrecy after a video from the polling station appeared on social media.

> When you read CAG report and reports about schemes, it is clear that BRS is not Bharat Rashtra Samithi but Bhrasta Rashtra Samithi
>
> **PRIYANK KHARGE**
> Congress leader

A murder most foul and a campaign taking on a communal colour

Both the Congress and the BJP have evoked the killing of a tailor in the run up to the election; trading community says the murder could have been averted with better law and order and worry about security while the family awaits justice

GROUND REPORT

Ishita Mishra
UDAIPUR

Rajasthan's election rhetoric has taken a communal turn, with both major political parties in the State – the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP – evoking the brutal hacking of 50-year-old tailor Kanhaiya Lal Sahu in Udaipur in June 2022. Udaipur's trading community says the murder could have been averted if the State had better law and order. The victim's bereaved family still awaits justice; till then, they simply want to be left alone.

Kanhaiya was killed after he shared a social media post supporting BJP leader Nupur Sharma, who had made offensive remarks against Prophet Muhammed in a television debate in May that year.

The accused, Riyaz Attari and Gaus Mohammed, filmed themselves killing the tailor and posted the video on social media, sparking outrage across the country. In another video, showing two daggers used for beheading, they claimed responsibility for the crime, and were later arrested from the neighbouring Rajsamand district; a case is now under trial in court.

Long wait: Jashoda, wife of tailor Kanhaiya Lal, with her sons Yash and Tarun during an interview in Udaipur. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Referring to Kanhaiya's murder in his public address in Udaipur on November 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the Congress was "sympathetic to terrorists" and accused the Rajasthan government of pursuing a policy of appeasement that helped terrorists.

The next day, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, counter attacked by sharing pictures of the BJP leaders with the accused.

Accusing the BJP of whipping up communal tensions in Rajasthan ahead of the Assembly election, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has claimed that the tailor had been killed by BJP workers who had been released from police detention under pressure a few days before the murder took place.

'Progress not known'

Progress in the case was not known since the National Investigation Agency had taken over from the State police, he said.

"Had the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan police handled the case, the probe would have reached a logical conclusion by now," he said. Mr. Gehlot alleged that the pace of investigation had been "purposefully kept slow", as the BJP intended to turn the case into an election issue to polarise voters along communal lines. In Hathipole Baazar, one of Udaipur's busiest markets, which was home to Sahu's tailor shop for over two decades, the businessmen are angry with the Congress.

"The Congress thinks that giving compensation to his [Kanhaiya's] family is enough. It is not. They need justice," said Lokesh Parmar, who runs a garment store.

Sanjay Wadhwani, owner of the Royal Arts emporium in the same area said that the trading community feared such security breaches, in the wake of the murder. "Anyone can come and kill you in broad daylight. This is scary and a point to ponder," he said.

Udaipur district is a BJP stronghold, with the party having won six of the eight Assembly seats in 2018. Tarachand Jain, the BJP candidate for the Udaipur seat, has been evoking the murder on-and-off during his campaign.

Congress candidate, Gaurav Vallabh, however, is avoiding any mention of the murder in his door-to-door canvassing. According to him, the State has done all that was needed in the case.

"People want peace and development. It's only the BJP that is playing up the issue to divide votes," Mr. Vallabh told *The Hindu*, adding that he plans to meet Sahu's family before polling day.

Kanhaiya's family, which got ₹50 lakh as compensation and government jobs for two sons, feel that Mr. Gehlot has done a lot for them but the Congress has failed to control crime in the State. At his home, Yash Sahu, son of Kanhaiya sits barefoot. He has pledged that until the murderers of his father gets death sentence, he won't wear a footwear and wont get a haircut.

The family of three, Jashoda [Kanhaiya's widow], Yash and the youngest son, Tarun, are fed up of frequent visit of media at their house since the Prime Minister evoked Kanhaiya at a recent rally. The family says that its ordeal is not ending as they are being forced to recall the gory killing of their father, from time to time.

"All we want is justice and to be left alone," says Yash.

Cong. makes a long list of promises, Gehlot says he is candidate in all 200 seats

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday pitched himself as a candidate in "all the 200 Assembly seats" in the State by attempting to frame the November 25 election as a referendum on his government's welfare schemes.

This came on a day the Congress released its election manifesto with more promises such as increasing the health insurance cover under the flagship Chiranjeevi scheme from ₹25 lakh to ₹50 lakh annually.

"Consider that I am contesting the elections on all the seats. Don't look at the local factors or who is contesting. The schemes that were brought in my time, the laws that were passed and the guarantees that were given in my time, the mood is such that the government should get repeated," Mr. Gehlot said. "I would urge the public to consider that the man who is giving this guarantee is contesting from all the seats. That's my wish," he added.

The manifesto also promised the enactment of a law to ensure minimum support price (MSP) to farmers following the M.S. Swaminathan Commission's recommendations. A slew of scheme were also announced for farmers and youth.

Many promises: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders release the party's poll manifesto in Jaipur on Tuesday. ANI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, accompanied by Mr. Gehlot, party State unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra, former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi, who headed the manifesto committee, released the document at the party office here.

Aside from MSP law and doubling the amount for health beneficiaries, the manifesto made a promise to create 10 lakh new job opportunities, including four lakh in the government sector. Mr. Kharge said his party had only made those promises which it could fulfil after being elected to power.

He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP of reneging on their commitments, despite being in power at the Centre for nine years. "There are many shortcomings in Gujarat, where Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister for 13 years. The reason is the lack of commitment," he said, while rejecting the allegation that he had abused Mr. Modi's father.

Mr. Gehlot said Rajasthan had occupied the second rank in the country in terms of economic growth as a result of good governance of the Congress. "The State's economy will be of the order of ₹15 lakh crore by 2023-end and a target has been set to take it to ₹30 lakh crore by 2030," he said.

The election manifesto would be treated as a government document by placing it in the first Cabinet meeting, he said.

Digvijaya booked for protest in Chhatarpur

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Days after Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh staged a stir outside Khajuraho Police Station in Chhatarpur district, an FIR has been filed against him along with more than 50 Congress workers for allegedly violating the model code of conduct.

According to the police, the FIR has been filed under the IPC Section 188 (for holding the protest without a valid permission from the authorities while the model code of conduct is in force in the State. Congress MLA and candidate from Chhatarpur's Rajnagar seat Vikram Singh Nati Raja has also been named in the FIR, the police said.

On November 18, Mr. Singh had staged a sit-in had spent the night outside the police station to demand action against BJP candidate from Rajnagar, Arvind Pateriya, who along with his supporters is an accused of running over and killing a Congress worker on November 17.

Chhtarpur Superintendent of Police, Amit Sanghi said that the FIR on Mr. Singh and others was filed on the basis of a complaint from district BJP chief Malkhan Singh.

In Rajasthan's Nagar, fake video does an endless loop, inflaming communal passions

Sobhana K. Nair
BHARATPUR

Two days after Wajib Ali, the Congress candidate in the Nagar constituency, filed his nomination papers on November 6, a video went viral on social media, showing people in a crowd accompanying him raising the "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan. Police investigations found that the video was doctored and a 32-year-old man who posted the video on YouTube was arrested. But that has not stopped the falsehood from gaining a life of its own.

In Nagar, Hindu voters are using the video to rail against the "anti-Hindu" and "pro-Muslim" stance of the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government. As the polling date nears, the communal schism is widening in Bharatpur district, a Congress stronghold. In the 2018 election, the Congress won four of the seven seats in the district and two Bahujan Samaj Party MLAs joined the party, supporting Mr. Gehlot, during former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot's 2020 revolt.

At his farm implements shop, Kesar Singh, who belongs to the Gujjar community, is upfront about his choice. "Here, it is a mi-

Deep divisions: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had addressed a rally in Bharatpur, Rajasthan on November 18. ANI

ni-Pakistan," Mr. Singh said. To support his point, he flags the fake video as genuine. "They raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans at Ali's nomination rally and fired from country-made pistols. We have lived alongside them [Muslims] for centuries, but this new generation is far too belligerent. We need a government that will discipline them," he said. He dismisses the police action against the video as a last favour done by the Rajasthan Police for the outgoing government.

The video is picked out over and over again by pro-BJP voters, especially the Gujjars, who are also disappointed about the Congress side lining Mr. Pilot, a Gujjar leader. But they are clear that even an appeal from Mr. Pilot will not make a difference now.

The complaints against Mr. Ali, who was elected to the seat on BSP ticket and switched to the Congress midway through his tenure, vary from "selective development" limited to only Muslim pockets, to promoting "their interests". Asked about the primary issue in the election, Vikram Singh Poswal, a 32-year-old driver, says without missing a beat: "Hindu-Muslim". Pointing at the overflowing drain outside his home, he says, "Look at this, does it show there was any development here? Congress only brings development to Muslim villages."

Mr. Poswal, like many other BJP supporters are drawing a cue from the speeches made by the party's leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah lead the list of BJP leaders whose speeches repeat how the Gehlot government has failed, over and over again, to protect the interests of the Hindus.

At an election rally in Bharatpur on November 18, listing out only Hindu festivals, Mr. Modi said: "You are unable to peacefully celebrate any festival." The festivals are interrupted by "stone throwers", "rioters", and "curfew", he said. "Wherever the Congress rules, terrorists, criminals, and rioters get a free run. The Congress can cross all limits for the politics of appeasement, even at the cost of your life."

Finding resonance

Nagar is not the only constituency where Mr. Modi's words are finding resonance. In the neighbouring Kaman constituency, Congress legislator Zahida Khan, the State's Education Minister, is once again in the fray, facing off against BJP candidate Nauksham Chaudhary. Ms. Chaudhary, whose last electoral contest was in the Haryana Assembly election of 2019, is considered an outsider here; still, the BJP has been able to centre the campaign on the "Hindu-Muslim" divide.

A group of farmers from the Saini community is engrossed in playing cards. Swarup Chand Saini, a committed BJP voter, says the results are a foregone conclusion, since it will play out along the usual caste and religious lines. "Muslims vote *en masse* for Zahida, she will win again," he said.

Prem Chand Saini strongly intercedes with an emphatic no. "We have no problem with the government, neither Modi nor Gehlot," he declares, listing out the benefits – free LPG cylinder, electricity, and up to ₹25 lakh insurance – provided by the Congress government in the State. "Gehlot has done good work," he says. His grievance is solely with Ms. Khan, whom he accuses of working only for her religious compatriots.

In Nandbai, Ram Mohan Singh, speaks about "*bharosa* (trust)" on the BJP and specifically on Baba Balak Nath, Alwar MP and the BJP's candidate from Tijara. But his emphatic support for Mr. Nath is due, Mr. Singh says, to the "larger cause" of saving "Sanatana dharma".

"He is a photocopy of Yogi Adityanath. He will bring out the bulldozers in Rajasthan, just like Yogi brought it in Uttar Pradesh," says Mr. Singh.

Telangana parties follow a revolving door policy this time

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Party-hopping is at never-seen levels ahead of the Telangana election, with even second-rung leaders who have influence among sections of voters switching affiliations.

"Over the past one month or so, there have been many instances of leaders leaving a party and rejoining it after a few days in another party," said a senior leader of the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which too has encouraged such crossovers.

Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Congress candidate for Bhongir, who had quit the party a couple of weeks before the announcement of the election schedule, joined the BRS and then returned to the Congress. Some like Tula Uma (BJP) have joined the BRS after being named as candidates but B-Forms were given to others. P. Uday left the BJP midway through the campaign of his father, P. Babu Mohan, party candidate in Andole, and joined the BRS on Sunday. Similarly, the Congress's Secunderabad Cantonment constituency in-charge, Jeevankan, joined the BRS on Saturday.

Several last-minute entrants into the Congress and the BJP have secured ticket, forcing the exit of long-timers, though the parties have managed to retain some dissidents. The fluid situation has made it difficult to identify which leader is with which party at the village, Mandal and constituency levels, the BRS leader said.

Every vote matters in the keen contest this time and the parties are hopeful that those joining hands with them even in the last minute will bring in at least some votes. While the Opposition parties have been trying to win over those in the rival parties by promising them nominated posts and opportunities to contest the Lok Sabha and other elections, the ruling party has been making such promises in addition to giving nominated posts to at least a few of them already.

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INBRIEF

WHO may integrate COVID-19 jabs with routine vaccination

Aimed at integrating COVID-19 pandemic vaccines with national immunisation programmes, vaccine regulators and officials from the WHO on Tuesday began deliberating strategies for member countries to transition from the use of COVID-19 vaccines to full Marketing Authorisation (MA). "We need to make sure people continue to stay protected from existing and future variants. For this, it is crucial that the regulatory authorities of member states are better equipped to take considered decisions to grant authorisation to COVID-19 vaccines, and introduce them in national immunisation programmes," Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO Southeast Asia said.

Lok Sabha Privileges panel summons Danish Ali, Bidhuri

The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee will hear Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali, who had moved a complaint against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri for using communal slurs against him during a debate on the Chandrayaan-3 Mission in the House, on December 7. Mr. Bidhuri has been called in to depose before the committee. Indicating that the committee will probe not only Mr. Bidhuri's conduct but also that of Mr. Ali, the agenda notified on the Lok Sabha website says that it will be considering complaints against both. A bunch of INDIA bloc MPs had written to Speaker Om Birla demanding immediate action against Mr. Bidhuri.

Joint exercise of Indian, U.S. forces begins in Meghalaya

A joint exercise of the special forces of India and the United States commenced in Meghalaya's Umroi Cantonment on Tuesday. Titled "Vajra Prahar 2023", it is the 14th such exercise aimed at sharing the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics, a Defence spokesperson said. The U.S. contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group, while the Indian Army contingent is led by the Special Forces personnel from the Eastern Command. The first edition of the joint exercise was conducted in 2010.

STF to probe 'irregularities' in halal certification in U.P.

Days after banning the production, storage, distribution and sale of halal-certified food products in Uttar Pradesh, the government transferred the investigation of a case registered against four companies for alleged irregularities in halal certification of products, to the Special Task Force (STF) of the police. The police issued a notification to this effect late on Monday. The decision came to the public domain on Tuesday. A Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha office-bearer had lodged a complaint last week alleging that some companies certified certain products as 'halal' to increase their sales among people from a certain community for monetary gains.

Families hope to find light at the end of the tunnel

Wives, parents, brothers have come from as far away as Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh and camped outside the site, waiting with bated breath to see their loved ones step out to freedom

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Rescuers sending food through pipes for the trapped labourers inside the tunnel in Uttarkashi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Rajni Kisku from Banka district of Bihar could not hold back her tears when she was on Tuesday made to speak to her husband, Virender Kisku, who is among the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. The couple, who were having a conversation after 11 days, asked about each other's health. The man, who tried his best to sound strong, told his wife that he will be out soon.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Rajni said that she had lost hopes that she will ever be able to hear from Mr. Virender. "He asked about my health, our children's studies and if our parents are fine or not. He was trying to sound strong, but I could feel that even he is desperate to come out," she said.

Since the day she landed in Silkyara along with her brother-in-law, she spends the entire day sitting outside the tunnel in hope that her husband will come out of the tunnel in good shape. She has not told her four children – three daughters and a son – about the situation of their father so that their studies go unhampered.

Similar is the desperation of Bonu Naik, the brother of Mahadev Naik who is trapped inside the tunnel. Mr. Bonu had travelled from his village in Jharkhand along with his maternal uncle, to see the progress of rescue operations and speak to his brother once, through the pipes installed at the site.

"Only me and my uncle have come here as we could only manage two train tickets. The government is giving us free food and accommodation but this is not [what] we are looking for. No one here is telling us when my brother will be out," Mr. Bonu said.

Restless calls

At Mr. Bonu's home, his parents have made restless and frequent calls to him throughout the day. He patiently answered them and then wiped off tears as he retains the hope until his brother comes out safely.

Choudhary Lal, father of Manjeet Lal, another worker trapped in the tunnel, is the most anxious among all. Mr. Manjeet is his only surviving son as his elder son died at a construction site in Maharashtra in 2022. Mr. Choudhary, who neither has a mobile phone nor much money in hand, is praying with folded hands outside the small temple erected outside the tunnel.

Back at Mr. Choudhary's home in a village called Behrampur in Uttar Pradesh, his brother Shree Krishna is taking care of Mr. Manjeet's mother who fell unconscious every time someone talks about Mr. Manjeet.

TV channels asked to be sensitive on Uttarkashi issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre says the telecast of footage by the channels had the potential to affect the ongoing operations

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Tuesday has asked television channels covering rescue operations under way at Silkyara, Uttarakhand, to refrain from sensationalising the issue.

The Ministry asked them to refrain from undertaking any live posts or videos from close proximity of the tunnel site.

"Committed to saving precious lives of all the workers, various government agencies are working tirelessly for the safe evacuation of the workers. The operation under way around the tunnel is of an extremely sensitive nature," the Ministry said.

The advisory

It said that the telecast of video footage and other pictures related to the operations by the TV channels, especially by placing cameras and other equipment in close proximity of the rescue operations site, had the potential to adversely affect the ongoing operations. "Television channels are advised to refrain from sensationalising the issue and from undertaking any live posts/videos from close proximity of the tunnel site where the rescue operations are under way, and ensure that the human life saving activity by the various agencies is in no way disrupted or disturbed by the very presence of cameramen, reporters or equipment near or around the operations site," the advisory said.

The TV channels have also been advised to be cautious and sensitive while reporting on the matter, particularly in putting out headlines, videos and images; the channels are to take due care of the sensitive nature of operation, psychological status of the family members as well as the viewers in general.

Rape survivor killed by accused, brother in Uttar Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A 20-year-old woman was hacked to death at Dherha village in the Mahewa Ghat police station limits in Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh by two brothers, including the man accused of raping her, the police said on Tuesday.

Ashok and Pawan Nishad had been released on bail a few days prior to the brutal murder.

Pressure from accused

According to the police, the murdered woman had accused Pawan of raping her three years ago, when she was a minor.

Pawan and Ashok had been harassing the woman, and were pressuring her to drop the case.

The murder was committed in full view of the public, the police said.

Ashok is an accused in a separate murder case and was released less than two days before the young woman's murder, the Uttar Pradesh police added.

> There was a dispute between two parties of the same community due to an old rivalry and litigation, in which people of one party killed a 20-year-old girl
>
> **BRIJESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA**
> Superintendent of Police

Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said, "There was a dispute between two parties of the same community due to an old rivalry and litigation, in which people of one party attacked and killed a 20-year-old girl with a sharp weapon. The incident occurred at Dherha village under the Mahewa Ghat police station. We have registered a case under Section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)."

Simultaneous elections will help nation, says Kovind

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former President Ram Nath Kovind, who heads a committee on "one nation, one election", has said that polls being held concurrently at the Union and State levels is in the national interest. However, on Tuesday, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, called it a "party agenda".

"I am requesting all the political parties to cooperate as this is in the national interest," Mr. Kovind, who is on a private visit to Rae Bareli, told presspersons on Monday night. "Holding simultaneous elections will be beneficial for the public as the revenue saved will be used for development work," he said.

Mr. Chowdhury, who refused to be part of the high- powered panel despite being named as a member, countered the former President. "This is not a national agenda but a party agenda," he said.

UGC set to constitute expert committee to update syllabi of NET

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to update the syllabi of the National Eligibility Test for Junior Research Fellowship and appointment as assistant professors in various subjects. The UGC will soon form an expert committee to undertake this work.

The UGC-NET is held in 83 subjects twice a year, usually in June and December, and thousands of students take the test.

Last update in 2017

In a statement here on Tuesday, University Grants Commission Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said that the commission last initiated the process to update the syllabi in 2017.

"However, after launching the National Education Policy in 2020, there have been considerable developments in higher education to impart multi-disciplinary curricula and holistic education," he said, adding that the UGC decided at a meeting on November 3 that an exercise to update the syllabi may be undertaken.

The UGC-NET is held in 83 subjects twice a year.

He said the commission will form an expert committee and undertake this exercise.

"Candidates will be given sufficient time before this new syllabus is introduced in UGC-NET so that the changeover happens smoothly," he said.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts the UGC-NET.

16 student outfits to protest against NEP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sixteen students' organisations announced the formation of the United Students of India on Tuesday as a joint platform to hold nationwide protests against the National Education Policy (NEP) of the Union government.

The move is in line with the activities of the platform of Opposition parties in the INDIA bloc. Student organisations of the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Samajwadi Party, Left parties, DMK and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) are included.

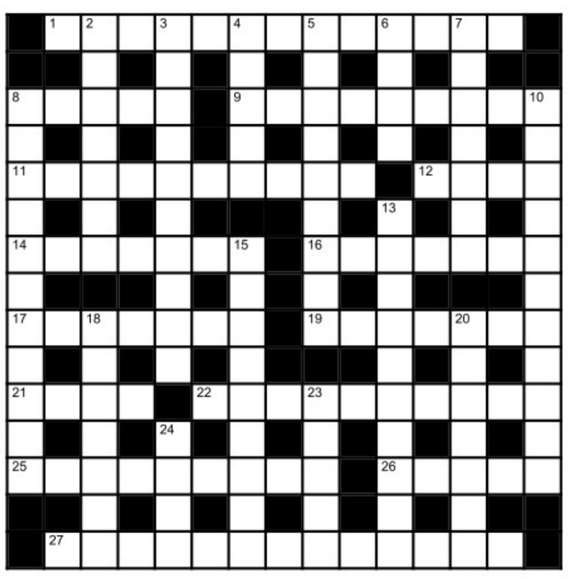
Leaders of the United Students of India, including C.V.M.P. Ezhilarasan, Mayukh Biswas, Anurag Nigam and Prasenjit Kumar, said the platform will work with the slogan "Save education, reject NEP; Save India, reject BJP". The leaders said they will mobilise students against the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

TH CROSSWORD + 14026

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Easily sense husband getting a touch tipsy after drinking shot (7,1,5)
8 Saved by doctors resuscitating relapsed addicts (5)
9 Can do reconstruction of retina (9)
11 Woman worried on flight about son starting to panic in wet whirlwind (10)
12 Full moon party, entertaining band (4)
14 Communicates by wireless with distressed roadies (7)
16 Many avoiding crowd to tackle spike in infectious disease (7)
17 Belligerent man drinking, turning very intoxicated in retreat (7)
19 Repaired most of electric network (7)
21 Edible root from east, peculiar on reflection (4)
22 Hospital worker beginning to frantically transfuse fluid (5,5)
25 Detective catches maiden and unionist cavorting in Indian state (5,4)
26 Waving, ran triumphantly to receive award (5)
27 Where one might experience tremors in a weak position (2,5,6)

Down

2 One went out to have unrestricted sex and conceived (7)
3 Affected by bad rhinitis, receiving oxygen at onset of Covid-19 (10)
4 Free from limits in university, sleep around casually at first (5)
5 Reporter's article on new cure, revolutionary (9)
6 Lives on a yacht primarily? My word! (1,3)
7 Pardon criminal? OK (7)
8 Most disreputable suitor went crazy outside hotel (11)
10 Injured player out of tourney finally, join as substitute (11)
13 Travelling on metro, gathering information about country (10)
15 Flatter track, having little turn to begin with (5-4)
18 Supporting musician and soprano plan to entertain millions with number (7)
20 Dog can have glaucoma, eventually becoming blind (7)
23 Cast starting to feel a little nervous in drag (5)
24 Dull black tie, not special (4)

SUDOKU

	6	8			5		4	
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					2		9	6
			2	5		3		
1				4				9
		9		6	3			
4	5		7					
	9			3				
	7		5			9	1	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

F	I	L	M	S	T	A	R		P	A	M	P	E	R
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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	6	9	3	4	7	8	2
8	7	9	1	6	2	4	3	5
3	4	2	8	5	7	9	6	1
4	9	1	5	2	3	6	7	8
7	2	8	4	9	6	1	5	3
6	5	3	7	8	1	2	4	9
2	3	4	6	1	8	5	9	7
1	6	5	3	7	9	8	2	4
9	8	7	2	4	5	3	1	6

FAITH

Vidura's parting words

The Pandavas and Draupadi were preparing to return to Indraprastha, after Dhritarashtra had returned their kingdom to them. But a message arrived from Dhritarashtra that Yudhishthira had to play another game of dice. Yudhishthira lost, and the Pandavas had to live in exile in the forest for 12 years and then live another year in disguise. Prior to leaving for the forest, Yudhishthira paid his respects to Vidura. Vidura had some words of advice for Yudhishthira, Kidambi Narayanan said in a discourse.

He says that water gives itself to everyone. But it never claims any credit for its unselfish act. It is cool and pleasing, and it is water that keeps the world alive. Vidura says that Yudhishthira must learn to be like water. From the wind, he must learn the importance of strength. From the earth, he should learn patience. From the sun, he must learn that to be bright and enthusiastic is important. One must learn from nature, for even animals have characteristic qualities, which can teach us a lot.

The citizens of Hastinapura were sorrowful that the Pandavas were going into exile in the forest. They wanted to accompany the five brothers. They felt that if Yudhishthira left, they would be like fish taken out of water. Yudhishthira was like the root of a tree. So, the people wondered how they would survive when Yudhishthira left.

SAN FRANCISCO

X sues non-profit body for claiming site is rife with anti-Semitism

REUTERS

Elon Musk's X Corp., formerly known as Twitter, sued non-profit Media Matters for driving advertisers away from the platform by portraying it as rife with anti-Semitic content. X accused the group of "tricking the algorithm into thinking Media Matters wanted to view both hateful content and content from large advertisers." AFP

MANILA

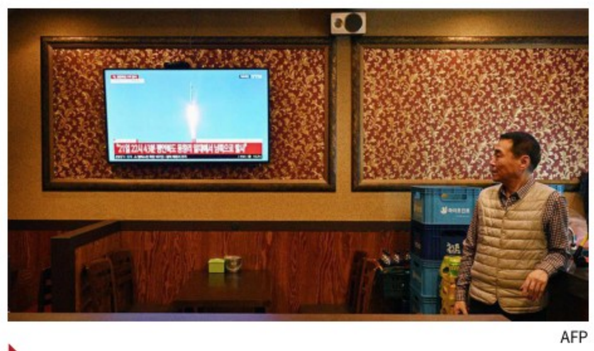
Philippines announces the start of joint patrols with U.S. forces

AFP

U.S. and Philippine troops began joint maritime and air patrols off the Southeast Asian country on Tuesday, as the countries seek to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region. The longtime treaty allies had agreed in February to resume joint patrols in the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost entirely. AFP

SEOUL

N. Korea claims to have put a spy satellite into orbit in its third bid



AFP

North Korea claimed to have successfully placed a spy satellite into orbit with its third launch attempt this year, demonstrating the nation's determination to build a space-based surveillance system during protracted tensions with the U.S. South Korea and Japan said earlier that they detected the North Korean launch. AP

JOHANNESBURG

As South Africa decides fate of embassy, Israel recalls Ambassador

AP

Israel recalled its Ambassador to South Africa, Eliav Belotserkovsky, back to Jerusalem "for consultations" ahead of a parliamentary vote in the African country to decide the fate of the Israeli embassy on Tuesday. The two countries' diplomatic relations have recently witnessed a rise in tensions over the Israeli war on Gaza. AP

Journalists killed in Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon

Associated Press
BEIRUT

An Israeli strike on southern Lebanon killed on Tuesday two journalists reporting for the Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV on the violence along the border with Israel, according to the Lebanese Information Minister and their TV station. The strike also killed a Lebanese civilian, said the station.

The Pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV – politically allied with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah – said the journalists were "martyred by treacherous Israeli targeting," adding it was an airstrike.

Last week, the Israeli government blocked Al-Mayadeen TV news channel from broadcasting in Israel.

Israel expands attacks in north Gaza, battles militants near refugee camp

Some 1.7 million Palestinians, about three-fourths of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the war began; more than 12,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to Health Ministry in the West Bank; another 4,000 are missing

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli troops battled Palestinian militants in an urban refugee camp and outside a nearby hospital on Tuesday as the Army expanded operations across northern Gaza, where residents have been without electricity or reliable access to water, food and other basics for weeks.

The front line of the war, now in its seventh week, shifted to the Jabaliya refugee camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses families displaced in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Israel has bombarded the area for weeks, and the military said Hamas fighters have regrouped there and in other eastern districts after being pushed out of much of Gaza City.

Food crunch: A Palestinian woman carries bread outside a UN school in Bureij in the central Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AFP

Fighting has also intensified outside the nearby Indonesian Hospital, where Palestinian health officials said a strike killed 12 people on Monday. They said on Tuesday that hundreds of patients and displaced people are trapped inside with dwindling supplies after some 200 were evacuated the day before.

Heavy toll

The war has exacted a heavy toll on Palestinian civilians, particularly those who remain in the north after Israel repeatedly called on people to flee south.

It is unclear how many stayed behind, but the UN agency for Palestinian refugees estimates that some 160,000 people are still in its shelters there, even though it is no longer able to provide services. Some 1.7 million Palestinians, about three-fourths of Gaza's population, have fled their homes, many packing into UN-run schools and other facilities across the territory's south.

Shortage persists

As shelters have overflowed, people have been forced to sleep on the streets outside, even as winter rains have pelted the coastal enclave in recent days. There are shortages of food, water and fuel for generators across all of Gaza, which has had no central electricity for over a month.

More than 12,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in the West Bank. Officials there say another 4,000 are missing.

Two premature babies died before Gaza evacuation: UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The 31 babies who were evacuated are fighting serious infections and need healthcare, says UN

Two premature babies being cared for at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza died before the evacuation of 31 others, the UN said on Tuesday, adding that most of those who reached Egypt were "unaccompanied".

The United Nations health agency helped evacuate 31 premature babies from the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Sunday, lamenting that the hospital had become "a death zone".

Babies in Egypt

Twenty-eight of those babies arrived in Egypt on Monday.

The World Health Organization warned that they were all "fighting serious infections and continue needing health care".

The other three babies moved from Al-Shifa in the north of the Gaza Strip are now in a hospital in southern Gaza and have their families with them.

WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday that the Al-Shifa hospital had been caring for 33 premature babies just the evening before the evacuation. "Two of these premature infants died only on that night because of the lack of care available to them," he said.

Pakistan court deems govt.'s jail trial of Imran Khan illegal

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday declared null and void the official notification of the Pakistan government for the jail trial of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the cipher case in which he is charged with leaking state secrets.

The two-member Bench issued its reserved judgment on an intra-court appeal by the former Prime Minister against a single Bench verdict of the same court that had turned down the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's appeal against his trial in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

The trial is being held in the Adiala Jail, where Khan has been kept since September 26. The Ministry of Law had issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of Khan as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain on August 29.

According to the verdict, the government's notification to hold the jail trial of Khan was declared illegal. However, the court stated that there was no bar on the jail trial of an accused in case of extraordinary circumstances and it was up to the judge to keep such trial open or in-camera.

World racing well past warming limit, UN says ahead of talks

Associated Press

Earth is speeding to 2.5° C to 2.9° C of global warming since pre-industrial times, set to blow well past the agreed-upon international climate threshold, a United Nations report calculated.

To have an even money shot at keeping warming to the 1.5° C limit adopted by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, countries have to slash their emissions by 42% by the end of the decade, said the UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap report issued on Monday. Carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas rose 1.2% last year, the report said.

This year Earth got a taste of what's to come, said the report, which sets the table for international climate talks later this month.

Through the end of September, the daily global average temperature exceeded 1.5° C above mid-19th century levels on 86 days this year, the report said. But that increased to 127 days because nearly all of the first two weeks of November and all of October reached or exceeded 1.5° C, according to the European climate service Copernicus. That is 40% of the days so far this year.

On Friday, the globe hit 2° C above pre-industrial levels for the first time in recorded history, according to Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess.

"It's really an indication that we are already seeing a change, an acceleration," said report lead author Anne Olhoff. "Based on what science tells us, this is just like a whisper. What will be in the future will be more like a roar."

Maldives says it will fortify islands to beat the rising sea

Agence France-Presse
MALÉ

Rising sea levels threaten to swamp the Maldives and the Indian Ocean archipelago is already out of drinking water, but the new President says he has scrapped plans to relocate citizens.

Instead, President Mohamed Muizzu promises the low-lying nation will beat back the waves through ambitious land reclamation and building islands higher – policies, however, that environmental and rights groups warn could even exacerbate flooding risks.

Office of the Electricity Department
THRISSUR CORPORATION
THRISSUR
ED1-4591/23 Dated : 20.11.2023
e-Tender Notice
"9 Mtr. steel tubular pole as per IS 2713-100 Nos"
log on to :
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last Date : 14.12.2023
(Sd/-) Assistant Secretary

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E - TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Deputy Engineer, Electrical Circle,Ernakulam
E-Tender ID : 2023_KSEB_623260
PAC - Rs.3,43,44,893/-, **Last date :** 06.12.2023 04.00 pm
Office of the Chief Engineer, (Transmission System Operation), L.D. Centre, Kalamassery, Ernakulam
E-Tender ID : 2023_KSEB_623181_1
PAC - Rs.1,32,82,000/-, **Last date :** 30.11.2023 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR /MC1/E439/E- Tender/2023

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVLA. **JJM - (1) RWSS to Pallickal Pt -** Design, Construction of 8.5 MLD WTP, O&M for 3 years, Supply and laying CWPM, Supply of pump sets and road restoration. **(2) RWSS to Pallickal –** Design Construction of 9m dia Intake Well Cum Pump house, Raw water Pump sets, Transformer room, Transformer and RW pumping main. **(3) WSS to Mylapra -** Construction of 6LL OHSR, supply and laying 200, 300, 400 mm DI pipes and road restoration. **(4) WSS to Pramadom and V Kottayam -** Construction of 7MLD WTP, 3 year O&M, 10LL OHSR etc. **(5) WSS to Enadimangalam -** Supply and laying CWPMs from Chayalodu to OHSR, Chayalodu to Paruthippara, Paruthippara to OHSRs at Murugankunnu and Kannimala, Supply of pump set, Construction of sump cum pump house, road restoration. **(6) RWSS to Vechoochira -** Construction of 8 MLD WTP near Navodhaya, 3 year O&M, 4LL OHSR etc. **EMD :** Rs. 500000, 500000, 500000, 200000, 500000, 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518, 19518, 19518, 13010, 19518, 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 14-12-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04692600162, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1646-2023-24 **PH Circle, Pathanamthitta**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-04/343/2023-24 **Date: 21.11.2023**
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned (1) Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), Preparation of Economic Analysis Report, Feasibility Report, Layout Plan, Detailed Estimate in the proposed Industrial Node in Dharwad Taluk & District. (2) Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Economic Analysis, Design and Feasibility Report for External Water Supply Scheme to the proposed Industrial Node in Dharwad Taluk & District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **01.12.2023 upto 04:00 pm.**
Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2189/2023-24

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: Purchase Department, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027,
Website: www.bmtc.in e-mail:cosp@mybmtc.com
No. BMTC/COSP/STR/SCRAP/461/2023-24 Date: 21.11.2023
"e"-Auction Notice
Scrap Vehicles available at BMTC will be sold through e-Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking). The e-Auction schedule is as under: **(1) Scrapped Vehicles Date of e-Auction : 28.11.2023.** The interested bidders may log onto **www.mstcecommerce.com** for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C Ltd., at below mentioned address for needful clarification. **Address:** M/.s M.S.T.C. LTD., No.19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052. Contact phone Nos: 080-22260054, 22266417, 22287356, FAX No. 080- 22256365, BMTC Contact phone Nos: + 91 7760991153/7760991157
Sd/-Controller of Stores & Purchases

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. E-86337/ I/66374/2023 **Date: 21-11-2023**
TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2023-24/ IND0034	Truck with Half Drop side Load Body & Cabin as per Technical Specification	31 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.11.2023**
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Irrigation Department, Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Irrigation, Ernakulam
TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

Name of Work	DRIP-Parappar Dam, Thenmala-Painting of radial gate, Fabrication and erection of Additional Stiffners on the radial gates, Fabrication and Erection of Trashrack at Ottakkal weir for RB, LB Canals; Stop log for emergency gate at Dam Top; Spiral Ladder at Dam top; Supply of New Siren and overhauling of Existing Siren; Fabrication and Erection of Trash rack at Ottakkal weir for Scour sluice. (DRIP Phase II)-General Mechanical Work
Tender ID	2023_MCIE_620397_1
RFB No.	IRR/MH/TR/1493/2023_16_1_1/1 Dated 13.11.2023
Date of Publishing	14.11.2023
Bid Submission end Date	13.12.2023
EMD	95,128/
Tender Class	C-Class or Above

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer

भारत सरकार टकसाल, मुंबई
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, MUMBAI
एनएबीएल/आईएसओ 17025:2017 प्रमाणित इकाई — NABL/ISO 17025:2017 Certified Unit
भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई — A Unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited
सीआईएन : U22213DL2006GOI144763 — CIN : U22213DL2006GOI144763
मिनी-रत्न श्रेणी । सीपीएसई (भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामीत्वाधीन) — Mini -Ratna Category - I CPSE (Wholly owned by Govt. of India)
शहीद भगत सिंह मार्ग, फोर्ट, मुंबई - 400 001 — Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001
Tel: 022 - 22663199 Ext. 132/219 Fax: 022 – 22661450 Email: igm.mumbai@spmcil.com Web: igmmumbai.spmcil.com
NOTICE
BOOKING OF "25th Anniversary of Operation Shakti-National Technology Day" Commemorative Coin Set.
India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of commemorative coin sets:

Theme	Proof (Rs.)	UNC (Rs.)
25th Anniversary of Operation Shakti-National Technology Day (Denomination of ₹100) – Folder Packing	4015.00	3495.00
25th Anniversary of Operation Shakti-National Technology Day (Denomination of ₹100) – Wooden Packing	4465.00	NA

The booking period will be from 22.11.2023 to 30.12.2023. The coin sets can be booked online on our website https://www.indiagovtmint.in or visit our store at Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400001.
For other detailed terms and conditions and online booking please visit customer corner section of our web site: **https://www.indiagovtmint.in**.
Follow us on : @SPMCILINDIA /SPMCILIndia /spmcilindia

INBRIEF

IREDA raises ₹643 crore from anchor investors

State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has mobilised ₹643 crore from anchor investors. The company has allotted 20,10,19,726 equity shares to 58 funds at ₹32 apiece, which is also the upper-end of the price band. Goldman Sachs, Integrated Core Strategies (Asia), Societe Generale, BNP Paribas Arbitrage, Copthall Mauritius and Moon Capital Trading are among the anchor investors, according to a circular on the BSE. PTI

Unifi Capital gets SEBI nod to start mutual fund business

Chennai-based Unifi Capital said it had received SEBI's in-principle nod to commence mutual fund business. "Our mutual fund will enable us to go deeper and wider, bringing our investment products to the full spectrum of investors for the very first time," founder Sarath Reddy said in a statement. "Within the regulatory framework, we have more than enough space to offer differentiated investment strategies that mutual fund investors are yet to be served," he said.

Owner of Sunpure oil eyes ₹120 cr. from jaggery segment

M.K. Agrotech, the owner of edible oil brand, Sunpure, has forayed into jaggery powder and jaggery block, targeting a ₹120-crore additional business per annum from the new segment. The company said it would introduce jaggery across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa and Tamil Nadu in the next one month. Sunpure's jaggery powder and jaggery block, available in 500g packs, had been introduced in Bengaluru and Mumbai already.

Inflation still remains a key risk to growth, cautions Finance Ministry

Ministry also flags external financial flows that could affect the rupee's value and the balance of payments situation; notes in its monthly economic review that inflationary pressures have moderated and will benefit from the slide in global oil prices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Inflationary pressures have moderated but price rise remains a key risk to growth along with external financial flows that could affect the rupee's value and the balance of payments situation, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

Asserting that the economy had been remarkably resilient amid a global slowdown, the ministry said private final consumption expenditure had emerged as the strongest driver of growth this year. While domestic demand had been solid, a fuller transmission of monetary policy may temper that demand, the ministry observed in its monthly economic review for October.

Exuding confidence that the Centre was on track to achieve the fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of GDP for the current year, the ministry added: "The recent steep and rapid decline in global crude oil prices removes an important source of potential impact on public finances as well."

The rapid reversal of rate hike expectations in the U.S. and the slide in the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield, coupled with the decline in oil prices, was good news for emerging markets in general, India included.

"Rural demand has sustained sequential momentum" in the July to September quarter, the ministry said, attributing it to stable incomes from foodgrain production and moderating inflationary pressures.

"The festive season has further strengthened consumption demand. While accumulated savings and declining unemployment constitute the underlying strength of consumption demand" rising real estate prices had also helped boost consumption, it said.

Inflation watch

Ministry flags potential risk that price gains pose to growth even as it sees drop in crude oil prices as a moderating factor

- Says private consumption spending has emerged as strongest driver of growth this year
- Notes that the festive season has further strengthened consumption demand
- Flags possibility of demand being tempered by fuller transmission of monetary policy

'More OPEC+ supply cuts likely next year, as oil prices plunge'

Reuters
LONDON

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies (OPEC+) are likely to extend or even deepen oil supply cuts into next year, after a more than 15% drop in Brent prices from a peak in September, a majority of 18 analysts polled predicted.

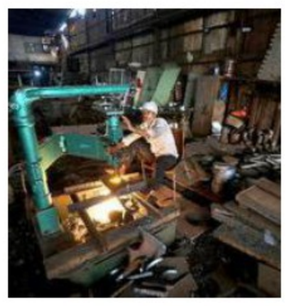
OPEC+ is set to consider whether to make additional cuts when the group meets later this week, sources told Reuters.

The sharp sell-off in oil prices has come despite a supply deficit due to OPEC+ cuts, in the fourth quarter and the risk of further supply disruption due to escalating tensions in West Asia, as investors fret about rising non-OPEC supply and softening demand in major economies.

Saudi Arabia, Russia and other members of OPEC+ have already pledged total oil output cuts of about 5 million barrels per day (bpd), or about 5% of daily global demand, in a series of steps that started in late 2022.

'India's economy to grow 7% in Q2, but likely to slow down in H2'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The Indian economy is expected to grow by 7% in the second quarter, surpassing the central bank's estimate of a 6.5% uptick, ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday, citing improved industrial performance despite a weak monsoon hitting the farm sector.

India's real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and Gross Value Added (GVA) had grown 7.8% in the April to June 2023 quarter.

"A normalising base and an erratic monsoon are expected to result in a sequential moderation in the GDP growth to 7.0% in Q2 from 7.8% in Q1," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said. "Regardless, we anticipate that the GDP expansion in this quarter will exceed the Monetary Policy Committee's October 2023 projection of 6.5%," she added.

"Looking ahead, uneven rainfall, narrowing differentials with year-ago commodity prices, the possible slowdown in momentum of Government capex as we approach the Parliamentary Elections, weak external demand and the cumulative impact of monetary tightening are likely to translate into lower GDP growth in H2 FY2024. As a result, we maintain our 2023-24 GDP growth estimate at 6.0%, lower than the MPC's projection of 6.5% for the fiscal," Ms. Nayar noted.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,931	0.42
US Dollar	83.28	0.11
Gold	62,150	0.61
Brent oil	82.02	-0.87

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2196.65	46.80
Adani Ports	801.35	-2.25
Apollo Hosp	5466.80	-7.15
Asian Paints	3133.25	-7.10
Axis Bank	991.80	3.10
Bajaj Auto	5685.95	35.80
Bajaj Finserv	1610.40	16.60
Bajaj Finance	7103.15	34.55
Bharti Airtel	970.85	9.45
BPCL	388.00	-4.00
Britannia Ind	4699.75	-12.25
Cipla	1253.25	6.15
Coal India	334.20	-13.55
Divis Lab	3721.60	48.65
Dr Reddys Lab	5646.45	42.30
Eicher Motors	3844.20	-2.25
Grasim Ind	1977.45	5.15
HCL Tech	1326.60	1.20
HDFC Bank	1517.95	12.75
HDFC Life	667.90	15.50
Hero MotoCorp	3376.50	30.15
Hindalco	506.85	9.55
Hind Unilever	2505.25	-1.20
ICICI Bank	926.10	4.65
IndusInd Bank	1502.05	-2.75
Infosys	1439.00	2.40
ITC	436.25	-0.55
JSW Steel	775.80	13.95
Kotak Bank	1767.20	-3.35
L&T	3074.85	-13.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5520.25	-35.85
M&M	1559.75	7.55
Maruti Suzuki	10535.15	-31.10
NestleIndia	24373.45	70.90
NTPC	250.00	-1.05
ONGC	191.20	-6.65
PowerGrid Corp	208.95	-0.35
Reliance Ind	2378.90	29.55
SBI Life	1423.65	38.35
State Bank	561.50	-2.25
Sun Pharma	1201.40	13.40
TataConsumerProduct	927.70	-3.15
Tata Motors	681.70	7.40
Tata Steel	126.25	1.90
TCS	3510.20	-9.40
Tech Mahindra	1204.50	-7.30
Titan	3394.45	48.60
UltraTech Cement	8708.35	46.85
UPL	563.05	6.35
Wipro	400.65	0.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.16	83.48
Euro	91.02	91.38
British Pound	104.22	104.62
Japanese Yen (100)	56.29	56.51
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	94.10	94.47
Singapore Dollar	62.22	62.47
Canadian Dollar	60.60	60.84
Malaysian Ringitt	17.87	17.95
Australian Dollar	54.59	54.80

Source:Indian Bank

Adani to bid for duty-free shops at Macau airport

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Adani group plans to bid for setting up duty-free shops at the Macau international airport, as India's largest airport operator spreads its wings overseas.

In a filing, Adani Enterprises, the flagship firm of the conglomerate, said it has completed the incorporation of a wholly-owned subsidiary, MTRPL Macau Ltd. (MML), in Macau on November 20.

"MML is incorporated for bidding for duty-free liquor and tobacco shops at Macau International Airport," it said. Adani's has in recent years ventured into newer businesses including data centres, cement, telecom and the media.

RIL to invest ₹20,000 cr. in West Bengal over 3 years

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Reliance Industries will invest ₹20,000 crore in West Bengal over the next three years, company's chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said in Kolkata on Tuesday.

"Bengal has been one of the largest investment destinations for Reliance. After you (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) invited me, Reliance has invested close to ₹45,000 crore in West Bengal. Today, I am happy to announce that we plan to invest an additional ₹20,000 crore in West Bengal in the next three years," Mr. Ambani said.

Participating in the seventh edition of Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), the Reliance Industries chairman said that the investments would be in three areas – digital life solutions through Jio 5G solutions, Reliance Retail and bio-energy.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Mukesh Ambani in Kolkata. DEBASISH BHADURI

Commenting on the reach of Jio telecom services in West Bengal, Mr. Ambani said, "We have achieved 98.8% population coverage in the State and 100% in Kolkata telecom circle". Reliance plans to roll out the launch of Jio 5G services in the country before the end of 2023.

Mr. Ambani said that the number of retail stores in the State would increase to 1,200, from 1,000, in the next two years and that the company had brought 5.5 lakh kirana stores under the umbrella of JioMart.

Reliance Industries also plans to set up CBG (Compressed BioGas) plants in West Bengal, which would help farmers to increase their income. The Reliance Industry chairman said that the company aimed to establish 100 CBG plants in the next 5 years, consuming 5.5 million tonnes of agro-residue and organic waste, thereby mitigating almost 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

Toyota to invest ₹3,300 cr. to fuel its next round of growth in India

Lalatendu Mishra
BENGALURU

To mark 25 years of its operations in India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Ltd. (TKM) has announced a fresh investment of ₹3,300 crore to set up a new plant (Plant 3) to help facilitate its next round of growth in one of the fastest-growing automobile markets in the world.

The company on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to set up this plant with a capacity of 1 lakh units a year at its existing location of Bidadi near Bengaluru by 2026.

Masakazu Yoshimura

In 25 years, TKM group companies have cumulatively invested more than ₹16,000 crore in India.

Initially the plant, to be funded entirely from internal accruals, will operate in two shifts and would provide employment to 2,000 employees.

The company currently operates two plants with a total manufacturing capacity of 3,42,000 units per annum and has an employee base of 11,500.

Masakazu Yoshimura, MD & CEO, TKM said, "We are certain that the new plant will positively contribute through consequent employment generation and expand adoption of advanced clean technologies."

The company said that this investment is a part of its continued long-term commitment to build upon the 25 years of its history by contributing toward the next 25 years of manufacturing in India.

In all these years, the company has sold over 2.3 million vehicles in India and the future focus remains to introduce clean and greener technologies for India. "Toyota will continue to focus on building ever better and greener cars for meeting evolving customer needs by adopting multiple pathways to enable energy shift away from fossil fuel," the automaker stated.

(The writer was in Bengaluru at the invitation of the company)

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE
MEDICAL COLLEGE PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-11
Phone: 0471 2522278

No. RCC/29/2019-ADMN-1 dated. 11/11/2023

Applications are invited for the post of **Assistant Professor** in various specialities on Regular Basis Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

Last date of receipt of application 06/12/2023.

For more details please visit our Website:
www.rcctvm.gov.in

(D3/180/2023/I&PRD) Sd/- DIRECTOR

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division
BBMP Commercial Complex, 2nd Floor,
Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore-30

No.E.E/(BTM)/Ae/e-proc/12/2023-24 Dated: 21-11-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - 3rd Call

(Through e-Procurement Portal
GoK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Tenders for the following Goods on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Or Any Reputed Agencies, equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate value of work (Rs in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Providing additional facilities like furniture and partitions to Community Buildings in Ward No 151 Koramangala.	14.00	35000/-

Note: 1) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: 01-12-2023 up to 4.00 P.M . 2) Date of Opening of the tender document on: 02-12-2023 @ 4.30 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division

Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority,
Commercial Complex, 100 feet road, Vinobanagar, Shivamogga.
Phone: 08182-249867, 249280

No.SBUDA/T.S./Tender/01/2023-24 Date : 20-11-2023

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Total 25 number of item war Tenders are invited by the undersigned, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000, subject to conditions of Standard Tender Document K.W.-2 and 3 Sections from eligible civil contractors of PWD registered in e-procurement portal. Eligible contractors can participate in the 25 number of Tender through e-procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Eligibility details and schedule as per Class-3 of Tender Memorandum of Understanding for Contractors are published on KPPP portal. For more information regarding KPPP Portal Helpdesk can be contacted on these No. 08046010000 & 08068948777.

Further details can be obtained by contacting the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Authority on office working days between 3-30 pm to 5-30 pm.

Sd/ (Vishwanath P Mudajji) Commissioner Shivamogga-Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/No.67/11/ksmca/23-24/793

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No. 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-1326/PO-C&S dt 20.11.23

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites e-Tender for procurement of 2Cx6 sq.mm-26600Km & 2Cx10 sq.mm-3300Km LT PVC insulated, PVC sheathed, Aluminium Conductor, unarmoured cable, ISI marked as per tender specification no. QQ-1326/PO/C&S dated 20.11.2023. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22.11.2023 (9:00AM) onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-829/23 76155/12/2419/2023/29934

Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapura
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkaballapura

E-Procurement Tender Notification No: 7/2023-24 Date: 06.11.2023

Applications Invited for Tenders subject to Standard Tender document KW – II, III & IV Rules. On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Itemwar Tender is invited through e-procurement in Two Cover System as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from authorized Contractors enrolled in appropriate class in PWD. Application for e-procurement documents should be submitted in Department website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (1)** Last date for submitting application through e-procurement and submitting filled schedule – B in website: **06.12.2023 up to 16.30 hours. (2)** Date of opening **Technical Bid: 07.12.2023 after 16.35 hours. (3)** Date of opening **Financial Bid:11.12.2023 after 11.30 hours** (if possible) **(4)** Application Fee (Non-returnable): As per e-procurement Rules.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P. R.E. Division, Chikkaballapura
DIPR/CHIKKBALLAPUR/RO:145/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddypalya, Bengaluru -560 032.

No: EE/HBL/TEND/04/2023-24 Date:21.11.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Repairs and Maintenance work for Indira Canteen Kitchen in Ward No. 18, Radhakrishna Temple *(Reserved for Others Category)*	5.00	12,500/-
	CALL-2		
2	Filling of Potholes in Ward No. 21 (New Ward No. 63), Hebbala *(Reserved for ST Category)*	15.00	18,750/-
3	Filling of Potholes in Ward No. 22 (New Ward No. 64), Vishwanatha Nagenahalli *(Reserved for Others Category)*	15.00	37,500/-

1)Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal. **2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Documents: **04.12.2023 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of Financial bids**: 05.12.2023 after 11.00 Hrs.** Further details, visit e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division

A BG-BGE

CHEERING UP

The entire country is watching you: Modi consoles Indian team

X@MYGOVINDIA

PM Narendra Modi cheered up the Indian team after its loss in the World Cup final. "You have won 10 games. This one loss is normal, please smile, the entire country is watching you. You guys have worked really hard, just keep on motivating each other. Whenever you are free, let's meet in Delhi. You all are cordially invited," Modi said..

REACHING A HIGH

2023 World Cup sets a tournament record of 1.25m spectators

K.R. DEEPAK

The Cricket World Cup attracted a tournament-record 1.25 million spectators during the 6-1/2 week event which ended on Sunday with Australia winning its sixth title. The ICC said on Tuesday that the tournament had 1,250,307 spectators. With six games to go, the spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BWF nomination for Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were on Tuesday nominated for the Player Year of the Award by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). The men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag won numerous tournaments in recent times, including a historic gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

NEW ROLES

Gul, Ajmal are Pakistan bowling coaches for Australia, NZ tours

FILE PHOTOS: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH & AFP

Umar Gul and Saeed Ajmal have been appointed as the fast bowling and spin bowling coaches of the national squad for the upcoming tour of Australia and New Zealand. The Pakistan Cricket Board said that initial assignments for both former stalwarts would include the Test series against Australia and T20I series against New Zealand.

Qatar scores thrice as India fails to put up an adequate challenge

The reigning Asian champion stays on top of Group A with six points from two games while The Blue Tigers remain second with three points from the same number of matches; Stimac makes five changes to the side that beat Kuwait

FIFA WC QUALIFIERS

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

Qatar brought up a nice essay of attacking football to suppress India's aspirations by a 3-0 scoreline in Group A's second-round match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and Asian Cup 27 qualifiers at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

The Blue Tigers failed to invoke the required challenge that could unsettle the might and reputation of the reigning Asian champion.

Making five changes to the squad that started against Kuwait, India did not find much space as the visitor went into attack mode right from the start.

Manvir Singh, the goal scorer in the previous match, was absent with a sprained muscle as India head coach Igor Stimac selected five players from the bench – Subhasish Bose, Anirudh Thapa, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Udanta Singh and goalkeeper Amrinder Singh – to try out a new combination at home.

Relentless: Qatar began the second half in style through Almoez's goal in the 46th minute. BISWARANJAN ROUT

India conceded in the fourth minute as an unprepared defence failed to clear on time, allowing Qatar forward Mustafa Meshaal to find the net with a grounder from inside the box. The visitor found a couple more chances in the first quarter of the action but centreback Sandesh Jhingan and Amrinder were alert in the box to block the marauding Qataris from adding to the tally.

India tried to tidy its game late in the opening half, launching attacks through the flanks.

The first good chance for the host came in the 40th minute when Chhangte set a sharp cross on the Qatar goalmouth but the latter's defence cleared before Udanta could make a try.

Two minutes later, Thapa shot wide of an open goal to extend India's frustration.

The change of ends did not help India as it conceded the second immediately in the 46th minute off an Almoez Ali effort.

The Indian attackers tried a few more offensive forays in the Qatar box but all their efforts remained abortive.

Substitute Yusuf Abdurisag made it 3-0 in the 86th minute to complete a well-earned victory for the visitor.

The result: India 0 lost to Qatar 3 (Meshaal 4, Almoez 46, Abdurisag 86).

Wenger dedicates FIFA academy to Indian youngsters

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

Key initiative: FIFA's Wenger addresses the media along with AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Indian Football received a notable assist in its development efforts when the legendary coach Arsene Wenger dedicated a premier talent harnessing academy that will be managed by the world governing body of the sport – FIFA.

Wenger, who is currently FIFA's global chief of football development, said the academy will focus on scouting talents at the right age and prepare players for the future Indian teams.

The world body has the All India Football Federation and the Government of Odisha as associates in the venture, which will be called AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy.

This was formalised on Tuesday with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey and R. Vineel Krishna, commissioner-cum-secretary of the department of sports and youth services of the State Government.

"I believe India has always invested a lot in education. But football is not like any other job. Unfortunately, it starts at a very young age.

"You cannot start to play football at 15 years of age. You have to start at five-six years because you have to find your feet. That's what we want to do," Wenger said in his address to the media after the signing process.

"No country has the moral right than the other one to be on top in the world.

"It is just about how well you educate your children and the best countries do it in the best way. Our effort will be to educate the children in India and make them be as good as they can be," said Wenger, whose developmental work with Premier League side Arsenal is now a part of world football's folklore.

The academy presently has two dedicated practice grounds with facilities to host approximately 50 trainees in a residential system. Spain's Sergi Amezcua Fontrodona will be the head coach for two years.

FIFA will soon finalise a team of support staff to start the training programme.

Anahat and Tanvi advance; Harinder Pal, Abhay in semifinals

Good going: Anahat posted commanding wins in the round-of-16 and quarterfinals. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

NATIONAL SQUASH

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Second seed Anahat Singh (Delhi) defeated Pooja Arthi (Tamil Nadu) 11-6, 11-8, 11-4 and Diya Yadav (Karnataka) 11-7, 11-2, 11-2 in the round-of-16 and quarterfinal matches respectively to make the women's semifinals of the 79th National squash championships at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy (ISTA) here on Tuesday.

Top seed Tanvi Khanna (Delhi) also had easy outings as she beat Tanishka Jain (Maharashtra) 11-7, 11-5, 11-1 in the round of 16 and Shameena Riaz (Tamil Nadu) 11-5, 11-4, 11-4 in the quarterfinal.

In the men's last-eight stage, Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (Tamil Nadu) posted a 11-9, 11-7, 11-9 win over Veer Chotrani (Maharashtra).

Veer remarkably saved four match points in the third game before Harinder closed out the match.

Relieved

"I feel very relieved. I have only practised with Veer, but not played against him in a match. So, it was a bit new.

"And he's coming from America with a good number of wins. He was obviously high on confidence," said Harinder after the match.

Top seed Abhay Singh brushed aside Guhan Senthilkumar 11-2, 11-2, 11-5.

The results:

Men: Quarterfinals: Abhay Singh (TN) bt Guhan Senthilkumar (TN) 11-2, 11-2, 11-5; Suraj Chand (Mah) bt Vaibhav Chauhan (Ser) 11-3, 11-8, 11-7; Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (TN) bt Veer Chotrani (Mah) 11-9, 11-7, 11-9; Velavan Senthilkumar (TN) bt Vedant Patel (Guj) 11-3, 11-4, 11-7.

Women: Round-of-16: Tanvi Khanna (Del) bt Tanishka Jain (Mah) 11-7, 11-5, 11-1; Shameena Riaz (TN) bt Mahak Talati (MP) 11-2, 11-1, 11-4; Rathika Suthanthira Seelan (TN) bt Nirupama Dubey (Mah) 11-8, 11-4, 11-3; Janet Vidhi (Mah) bt Ananya Narayanan (TN) 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 14-12; Urwashi Joshi (Mah) bt Aryaa Dwivedi (TS) 11-3, 11-4, 11-4.

Sunita Patel (Mah) bt Reiva Nimbalkar (Mah) 11-7, 11-9, 11-4; Diya Yadav (Kar) bt Unnati Tripathi (UP) 6-11, 11-6, 12-10, 11-6; Anahat Singh (Del) bt R. Pooja Arthi (TN) 11-6, 11-8, 11-4.

Quarterfinals: Tanvi bt Shameena 11-5, 11-4, 11-4; Rathika bt Janet 11-4, 11-6, 11-2; Urwashi bt Sunita 5-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-2; Anahat bt Diya 11-7, 11-2, 11-2.

ICC introduces a slew of changes after board meeting

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Bowling teams in men's ODI and T20Is will be imposed a five-run penalty if the bowler exceeds the 60 second limit of bowling the next over for the third time in an innings, the sport's governing body ICC said on Tuesday.

The decision taken at the ICC board meeting here will be used on a trial basis initially.

"The CEC agreed to introduce a stop clock on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024," said the ICC.

The ICC also barred cricketers who have been through any form of male puberty from competing in international women's game regardless of whether or not they have undergone surgery or gender reassignment treatment.

When asked what prompted the ICC to make this change, a source stated that it was due to "cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics."

The ICC also moved next year's Men's U-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to South Africa, 11 days after the world governing body provisionally suspended the island nation's cricket board due to government interference.

Bowling teams in men's ODI and T20Is will be imposed a five-run penalty if the bowler exceeds the 60 second limit of bowling the next over for the third time in an innings

Transgender players banned from international women's cricket

Next year's Men's U-19 World Cup moved from Sri Lanka to South Africa

The threshold of demerit points to ban a pitch from international cricket increased

Plans introduced to accelerate women match officials' development

The threshold of demerit points to ban a pitch from international cricket has been increased from five points to six (over a five-year period).

Equal pay

Meanwhile, the CEC also endorsed a plan to accelerate the development of women match officials, which includes equal match-day pay for ICC umpires across men's and women's cricket, and ensuring there is one neutral umpire in every ICC Women's Championship series from next year.

David Warner. VIJAY SONEJI

Warner rested for T20Is against India

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

The selectors have decided to rest David Warner for the five-match T20 series in India following Australia's ODI World Cup triumph in Ahmedabad.

Warner, who was Australia's leading run-getting with 535 runs in the triumphant campaign, was originally part of the squad to be led by Matthew Wade. The squad, for the series beginning in Visakhapatnam on November 23, was announced last month.

All-rounder Aaron Hardie has already joined the squad as Warner's replacement.

The squad: Matthew Wade (Capt.), Aaron Hardie, Jason Behrendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa.

Advani wins World title for the 26th time

Hallmark of success: Advani rallied to defeat Kothari in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur. PTI

BILLIARDS

Press Trust of India
DOHA

Indian cueist Pankaj Advani rallied to win the IBSF World Billiards Championship title here on Tuesday for a staggering 26th time, beating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final.

Trailing 26-180 in the first hour, Advani rallied to defeat the 2018 world champion Kothari 1000-416 in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur.

Playing back-to-back matches, Kothari took the initial lead and was going strong but faltered on a couple of easy chances to allow Advani recover from the deficit.

From there, it got a little scrappy with both players exchanging visits between them and a couple of 150-plus breaks by Advani helped him stretch the lead while Kothari could not fully capitalise on the chances he got.

Advani fired in a break of 214, the highest of the match, and looked unstoppable after that.

Advani maintained a healthy 250-point lead for the better part of the match.

A 99 from Kothari brought the difference down to 150.

The ace from Bengaluru then switched gears to extend the lead and reach the 1000-mark with an unfinished break of 199 to end the proceedings.

Describing the feeling as "unreal", Advani said: "I have won before so I know how it feels, but to repeat it year on year is what makes all those hours of work on skill, body and mind totally worth it."

INBRIEF

Spieth to replace McIlroy on PGA Tour policy board

Jordan Spieth is replacing Rory McIlroy on the PGA Tour policy board and will finish out the term that runs until the end of next year. McIlroy said last week he no longer felt he had the time and energy to serve his final year of what has been a period of turmoil on the PGA Tour as it fought and then proposed a partnership with Saudi backers of LIV Golf.

Holder Italy secures a place in the Euro 2024 championship

Reigning champion Italy secured its ticket for Euro 2024 on Monday after holding on for a nervy goalless draw against Ukraine in its final qualifier, while the Czech Republic and Slovenia also clinched places at next year's finals.

The results: Group C: North Macedonia 1 (Bardhi 41-pen) drew with England 1 (Kane 59); Ukraine 0 drew with Italy 0.

Group E: Albania 0 drew with Faroe Islands 0; Czech Republic 3 (Doudera 14, Chory 72, Soucek 90) bt Moldova 0.

Group H: Northern Ireland 2 (Price 61, Charles 82) bt Denmark 0; San Marino 1 (Berardi 90+7-pen) lost to Finland 2 (Soiri 50, 58); Slovenia 2 (Sesko 41-pen, Verbic 86) bt Kazakhstan 1 (Orazov 48).

Prannoy advances to second round in China Masters

H.S. Prannoy progressed to the second round of China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament with a 21-18, 22-20 win over Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen here on Tuesday.

The results (first round): Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) 21-18, 22-20. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Ben Lane & Sean Vendy (Eng) 21-13, 21-10. **Women:** Aakarshi Kashyap lost to Zhang Yi Man (Chn) 12-21, 14-21.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: China Masters, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.

Tennis: Davis Cup (quarterfinals), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Punjab fights hard to pull off a victory over Maharashtra

Sanjay scores four in Haryana's 13-1 win against Chhattisgarh; Rohidas' hat-trick helps Odisha defeat Delhi; Haryana, TN and Karnataka top their groups to make the quarterfinals

HOCKEY NATIONALS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Off the mark: Jugraj slots in Punjab's first goal against Maharashtra. R. RAGU

Favourite Punjab, playing its first match of the Senior National men's hockey championship here on Tuesday, with five current internationals in its ranks including Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh, had to fight hard to pull off a 4-2 victory over Maharashtra in a Pool-D match.

In the last match of the day, Amit Rohidas's hat-trick enabled Odisha defeat Delhi 8-1 in a Pool H tie. Earlier, Sanjay scored four times in Haryana's 13-1 victory over Chhatisgarh.

The match of the day and perhaps the best of the Nationals so far was the Punjab versus Maharashtra clash as a top team been never been challenged so much.

The match went on an even keel till the third quarter. Punjab, however, showed its might in the final quarter scoring two goals through Dilpreet Singh and Harmanpreet Singh that literally took the contest away from Maharashtra. Yuvraj Walmiki's second goal came pretty late in the match for Maharashtra.

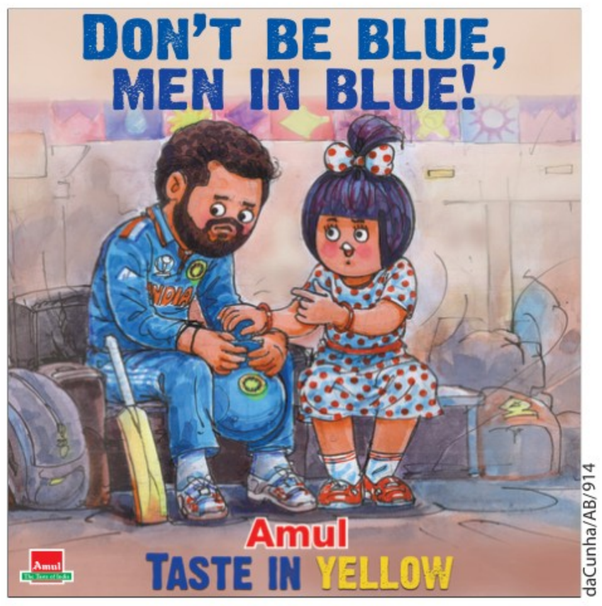
Meanwhile, three teams – Haryana (Pool A), Tamil Nadu (B) and Karnataka (C) – topped their groups and qualified for the quarterfinals.

The results: Pool A: Haryana 13 (Sanjay 10, 17, 50, 54, Rajant 4, 47, Kohinoorpreet Singh 27, 39, 56, Deepak 41, 59, Abhishek 43, Mukul Sharma 60) bt Chhattisgarh 1 (Karthik Yadav 49).

Pool D: Punjab 4 (Jugraj Singh 26, Simranjeet Singh 41, Dilpreet Singh 51, Harmanpreet Singh 54) bt Maharashtra 2 (Yuvraj Walmiki 20, 59).

Pool G: UP 3 (Manish Yadav 25, Sunil Yadav 37, Faraz Mohd. 53) bt Le Puducherry 2 (T. Arun 46, 55); Kerala 2 (Sadhik 12, C. Abhinav 49) drew with Rajasthan 2 (Shoyab Akhtar 36, 39).

Pool H: Odisha 8 (Amit Rohidas 1, 4, 33, Rajin Kandulna 13, Ashis Kumar Topno 24, 32, Nilam Sanjeev Xess 37, Shilanand Lakra 58) bt Delhi 1 (Aman Khan 11).



daCunha/AB/914

Divya places seventh in air pistol final

WORLD CUP FINALS

Sports Bureau

T.S. Divya made the final of women's air pistol but ended seventh in the World Cup Finals in Doha on Tuesday. The Chinese, Li Xue, Zhao Nan and Jiang Ranxin, swept all the three medals.

In men's air pistol, the lone Indian entrant, Sarabjot Singh, shot 581 and missed the final by one point.

The results:

10m air pistol: Men: 1. Robin Walter (Ger) 243.3(585); 2. Paolo Monna (Ita) 240.0(586); 3. Emils Vasermanis (Lat) 220.3(582); 9. Sarabjot Singh 581.

Women: 1. Li Xue (Chn) 244.7(581); 2. Zhao Nan (Chn) 243.6(579); 3. Jiang Ranxin (Chn) 223.4(575); 7. T.S. Divya 137.8(576); 13. Esha Singh 571.

Between hope and hubris: Innocence, glumness, despair, gratitude

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

The World Cup has gone from being an event in the future with its administrative confusions, to one in the past, full of might-have-beens. In between it showed the best the 50-over game has to offer, suggesting the format isn't ready to roll over and die yet. Had India won, we could have said this with greater confidence, for what India thinks today others do tomorrow.

The script was hammered out by everyone from the ruling party and the cricket board to the broadcasters and fans, some of whom were willing to pay up to five lakh for tickets, air fare and hotel rooms. There is an innocence in believing that the best team always wins and that half a million is small price to pay for the 'I-was-there' bragging rights.

But this is sport. Unexpectedness and upsets are what it thrives on. We might have been led to believe - by television, media, even some politicians - that there was only one team in the tournament. World Cups remind us that we must distinguish between hope and hubris.

The gods of cricket love to lead us on and then drop us with a thud, laughter echoing in the background. It happened to the West Indies in 1983 when India surprised them. It happened to England in 1992 when they lost to Pakistan, and Australia in 1996 when Sri Lanka won. And to India themselves each time they failed in this century.

India dominate world cricket; their word, even gesture, is law. They bully and wheedle while bringing in and spending more money than any other country. But they can't control the result of a match, and for that we must be grateful.

Unfamiliar situation

Australia were the underdogs, a situation they are not familiar with and don't accept easily. They took the bigger risks - starting from the decision to bowl on winning the toss to taking Jasprit Bumrah for 15 in his first over. They played like India had throughout the tournament, confident that someone would always deliver.

When Virat Kohli was bowled, his face anticipated the despair and hopelessness Indian supporters would feel in a few hours. Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun, he seemed to say, for nothing now can ever come to any good.

The crowd (92,000 according to one estimate and 1,30,000 according to Ravi Shastri, a good man to have around when hype and noise are the order of the day) had thinned out. But from the remainers, there was some applause for Australia. Otherwise it was the embarrassing silence, even tiresome heckling, that has been a feature of this tournament.

It was a strange crowd, willing neither to cheer the visitors when they were up nor the home team when they were down. Silence was its calling card, triumphalism and hubris its core value. The process meant nothing, the product was all.

Even as the disappointed left the stadium, the chief guest, looking glum in the stands, could not. The glumness was understandable. He would not be able to speak of a 'New India' or say how cricket was invented in India along with democracy and space travel.

Whatever the crowd numbers, it was significant for the one who wasn't there - Kapil Dev, captain of the first Indian team to win the Cup. He wasn't invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Hubris? Oversight? Pettiness? Punishment for once supporting wrestlers protesting against an official? Invitation lost in the post?

However churlish the crowds or the officials might have been, the players were magnificent. They exploded a popular myth. There is no such thing as 'momentum' in sport. Each day is a fresh start.

Of the four Indian teams that made it to the final (1983, 2003, 2011 before this one), this was the best, with many candidates for an all-time India XI. Some will not get another crack at the Cup, a significant gap in the biodata of men like Rohit Sharma, one of the best. Sport can be cruel.

Four years from now in the next edition of the tournament in South Africa and Zimbabwe, India will have a new captain, a new coach, a new team. But the old hopes will remain. And, one suspects, the old hubris too.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Vaidehi beats compatriot Anjali

Fourth-seeded Vaidehi Chaudhari defeated wild card entrant and compatriot Anjali Rathi 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the singles pre-quarterfinals at the ITF Bowring Institute ITF Women's World Tennis Tour tournament here on Tuesday.

Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty overcame a late fightback by Humera Baharmus to emerge a 6-1, 7-5 victor.

The results (singles, round of 32): Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty bt Humera Baharmus 6-1, 7-5; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Anjali Rathi 6-3, 6-3; Jenny Duerst (Sui) bt Yashaswini Panwar 6-3, 6-2. Diletta Cherubini (Ita) bt Anastasia Sukhotin 6-1, 6-2. Suhitha Maruri bt Paavanii Paathak 6-3, 6-3; Vaishnavi Adkar bt Sahira Singh 6-0, 6-1.

Karnataka loses to Uttarakhand

Avneesh Sudha's century (121) helped Uttarakhand defeat Karnataka by six wickets in the semifinals of the BCCI Men's U-23 State A-One Day Trophy in Delhi.

The scores: Karnataka 230/9 in 50 overs (Rohan A. Patil 38, R. Smaran 40, Yashovardhan Parantap 57, Rajvir Wadhwa 39) lost to Uttarakhand 232/4 in 47.5 overs (Avneesh Sudha 121, Kamal 45, Aryan Sharma 48, Yashovardhan Parantap 3/38).

Karnataka enters final

Karnataka beat Punjab by eight wickets to enter the final of the BCCI U-19 Women's T20 Trophy in Nadaun, Himachal Pradesh. Karnataka will meet Andhra in Thursday's final.

The scores: U-19 T20: Nadaun (HP): Punjab 112/4 in 20 overs (Harsim Ranjit 53) lost to Karnataka 113/2 in 16 overs (Shreya S. Chavan 42 n.o., H. Bhavika Reddy 31 n.o.).

U-15 One-Day Trophy: Kolkata: Karnataka 194/7 in 35 overs (Karnika Karthick 42, Shreya Pote 47) bt Assam 39 in 20.1 overs (R. Pragna Veera Brahmini 3/7).

Aditya notches up a ton

Aditya Jha top-scored with 121 as FUCC (1) won by 117 runs against Engrades CC in the KSCA (Group I) under-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: FUCC (1) 299/8 in 50 overs (Chirag Harsha 72, Aditya Jha 121, S. Maanvik 26, Krrish 28 n.o., Nihal Malik 3/61) bt Engrades 182 in 35.4 overs (C. Arya 45, M. Sriganesh 36, Aaryansinh Chavda 5/27).

Merchants (1) 81 in 31.3 overs (P. Jnana Prabhu 6/26, N. Bhishma 3/12) lost to Chintamani SA 82/1 in 18 overs (Roshan Raj Shinde 35 n.o.).

Malleswaram Gymkhana 73 in 25 overs (Shrish Khan 3/24, Aakash Suresh 3/8) lost to Cambridge 75/2 in 12 overs (Shankargouda Sidaraddi 29 n.o., Pranav Pydah 31).

Jawahar SC (1) 283/6 in 50 overs (R. Vishesh Rama 73, A.S. Sai Smaran 31, Arjun Gothe 49, Krushik Krishna 59, Mohammed Ayaanulla Shariff 4/35) bt Eminent Cricketers 61 in 22.4 overs (Shaurya Tiwari 3/14).

Cavaliers 49 in 22.2 overs (Ryan Aaron Minj 5/18) lost to BUCC (1) 50/1 in 11.5 overs.

Jawahar SC (2) 136 in 42.4 overs (A. Siddanth 46, Chethan Nagaraju 3/28, Gagandeep Gowda 3/34) bt Unique 112 in 32 overs (M.M. Mokshagna 31, A. Siddanth 4/21).

Herons 315 in 49.4 overs (Anshuman Samal 32, Poornapragna M. Raam 30, A. Siddharth Ashok 67, Pinjari Hussain 35, P. Rupesh Kumar 47) bt Canarese 131 in 40 overs (J. Ayush 60, Bhuvan Sachish Manohar 30 n.o., Jaivardhan Sipani 3/24, Prathyush G. Shetty 5/25).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 111 in 28.2 overs (Goladari Medha Venkat 30, H.N. Samarth 25) lost to Whirlwind Cricketers 112/8 in 28.1 overs (Sangam D'Souza 38, G. Sai Subramanian 5/30).

Young Lions Club 302/6 in 50 overs (M. Rohith 105, Kuber 106, Jnana Prabhu 3/60) bt Chintamani SA 136/9 in 50 overs.

Sangam 248/9 in 50 overs (Punith Lakshman Kumar 35, Y. Ishaanth 88 n.o., H.R. Yashas 35, S. Omkar 3/47) bt Merchants (1) 155/9 in 50 overs (P. Yateesh 62, Rahuldev Singh 25 n.o.).

Palace Orchard 102 in 34.5 overs (Raghav Sanjay Vadher 30, Shankargouda 3/13) lost to Cambridge 103 for no loss in 21.5 overs (S. Rishi Harivatsa 44 n.o., Shankargouda 52 n.o.).

Jawahar (1) 209/7 in 50 overs (R. Vishesh Rama 79, Krushik 48, Y. Tharun 29 n.o., Ribhav Radhesh Nair 3/31) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana 151 in 44.1 overs (Ribhav Radhesh Nair 39, Krushik 3/8).

BUCC (1) 202 in 47.3 overs (Yash Rajanna 64, Aditya Singh 41, Hari P Selvam 4/33) bt Victory 196 in 48.5 overs (Shiven Gupta 84, Ryan Aaron Minj 3/25, Aditya Singh 3/40).

Jawahar 47 in 26.3 overs (S. Amogh Sanil 4/16) lost to Cavaliers 48/1 in 14 overs (Anirudh M. Bangera 28 n.o.).

FUCC (1) 324/8 in 50 overs (Chirag 114, Aaryansinh Chavda 84, Krrish Iyer 31, S. Gaaurav 40, V. Mohith Shriyans 3/57) bt Blue Diamond Cricketers 111 in 32.2 overs (Yaeesh Rahaman 44, Sankarshana Kaushik Penakonde 3/15).

Engrades 162 in 43.5 overs (N.P. Sahas 27, S. Muhammad Ayaan 25, Nihal 29, Sathvik Sankar 4/39) lost to Herons 163/5 in 42 overs (Sanjit Sathish 34, Anshuman 42, Jaivardhan 32 n.o.).

Whirlwind Cricketers 53/5 in 20 overs lost to Social Cricketers 54/2 in 8.5 overs (Chavanth R. Gowda 33).

Young Challenging Cricketers 112 in 34 overs (Dhruv Sharma 54, Syed Ali Suhail 3/26, B.A. Gagan Chandra Reddy 3/13) lost to Modern 113/1 in 26.3 overs (Samarth 48 n.o., Shoaib Aman 53).

Young Lions Club 152/3 in 34 overs (Hrithvik 28, M. Rohith 29, Kuber 51 n.o., R. Shivaraj 29 n.o.) bt Sangam 143/7 in 34 overs (Tattv Kaul 40).

Easy outing: Vaidehi in action against Anjali on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Inter-collegiate athletics

The Bangalore University Directorate of Physical Education will organise its 56th inter-collegiate athletics championships from Nov. 22 to 24 at the Jnanabharathi Campus. Over 2500 athletes from 294 affiliated colleges will take part in 46 events in the men's and women's categories.

Zoza eases past Royal

Zoza Hockey Academy walloped Royal HC 8-1 in the KSHA - BHA B-division hockey league championship on Tuesday. In another encounter, Hanuman Blessings HC overcame Aristocrat HC 2-0.

A win for SC Bengaluru

Sporting Club Bengaluru beat Bangalore Independents 2-0 in the BDFA Super Division Football League on Tuesday.

The results: Bengaluru FC 0 drew with FC Bengaluru United 0; Sporting Club Bengaluru 2 (Sovik Das 20, Manoj Swamy Kannan 31) bt Bangalore Independents FC 0.

Senior Women's National football

The Senior Women's National Football Championship Group C matches will be held at the Bangalore Football Stadium starting Nov. 23. Karnataka, Chandigarh, Assam, Sikkim, Kerala and Tripura are participating.

Roots triumph

Roots FC emerged the champion of the TAL Football Season 12 Conference A that concluded recently. Yataghan FC finished runner-up.

Harmilan is brand ambassador of BMM

Runs in the family: Harmilan, with her mother Madhuri, an Arjuna awardee, at a press conference in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Harmilan Bains, the 2022 Asian Games double medallist, was announced as the brand ambassador of the PhonePe Bengaluru Midnight Marathon (BMM)16th edition here on Tuesday.

Harmilan, who won silver in the 800m and 1,500m events at the 2022 Asian Games, was joined by her mother Madhuri Saxena at an event here. Madhuri had won a 800m silver medal at the 2002 Asian Games.

"When I do endurance training, I find it very challenging. I can't wait for it to get over, even if it is a much lesser distance than a half-marathon. So my mother and I have great respect for marathon runners, especially those who are not professional athletes," Harmilan said.

Madhuri recalled the time when she ran a 1,500m race when she was three months pregnant with Harmilan. "I suppose that was my very first race," Harmilan said.

Organised by Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor (RBITC), the first edition of the Bengaluru Midnight Marathon was held in May 2007.

The marathon will be held here on December 16. Online registrations for all events – including the full marathon, half marathon, 10K Run and Fun & Furious 5K Run – are open on www.midnightmarathon.in.